Pioneer *sound.vision.soul*

AUDIO/VIDEO MULTI-CHANNEL RECEIVER

VSX-AX4ASi-G
VSX-AX4ASi-S
VSX-AX2AS-S

Operating Instructions

IMPORTANT



The lightning flash with arrowhead symbol, within an equilateral triangle, is intended to alert the user to the presence of uninsulated "dangerous voltage" within the product's enclosure that may be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock to persons.

CAUTION
RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK
DO NOT OPEN

CAUTION:
TO PREVENT THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER (OR BACK). NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED SERVICE PERSONNEL.



The exclamation point within an equilateral triangle is intended to alert the user to the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing) instructions in the literature accompanying the appliance.

D3-4-2-1-1_En-A

Thank you for buying this Pioneer product. Please read through these operating instructions so you will know how to operate your model properly. After you have finished reading the instructions, put them away in a safe place for future reference.

WARNING

Before plugging in for the first time, read the following section carefully.

The voltage of the available power supply differs according to country or region. Be sure that the power supply voltage of the area where this unit will be used meets the required voltage (e.g., 230 V or 120 V) written on the rear panel. D3-4-2-1-4_A_En

WARNING

To prevent a fire hazard, do not place any naked flame sources (such as a lighted candle) on the equipment. D3-4-2-1-7a_A_En

WARNING

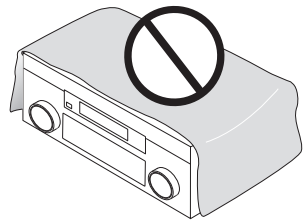
This equipment is not waterproof. To prevent a fire or shock hazard, do not place any container filled with liquid near this equipment (such as a vase or flower pot) or expose it to dripping, splashing, rain or moisture. D3-4-2-1-3_A_En

VENTILATION CAUTION

When installing this unit, make sure to leave space around the unit for ventilation to improve heat radiation (at least 60 cm at top, 10 cm at rear, and 30 cm at each side).

WARNING

Slots and openings in the cabinet are provided for ventilation to ensure reliable operation of the product, and to protect it from overheating. To prevent fire hazard, the openings should never be blocked or covered with items (such as newspapers, table-cloths, curtains) or by operating the equipment on thick carpet or a bed. D3-4-2-1-7b_A_En



Operating Environment

Operating environment temperature and humidity:
+5 °C to +35 °C (+41 °F to +95 °F); less than 85 %RH
(cooling vents not blocked)
Do not install this unit in a poorly ventilated area, or in locations exposed to high humidity or direct sunlight (or strong artificial light) D3-4-2-1-7c_A_En

When disposing of used batteries, please comply with governmental regulations or environmental public instruction's rules that apply in your country/area. D3-4-2-3-1_En

CAUTION
The ⏻**STANDBY/ON** switch on this unit will not completely shut off all power from the AC outlet. Since the power cord serves as the main disconnect device for the unit, you will need to unplug it from the AC outlet to shut down all power. Therefore, make sure the unit has been installed so that the power cord can be easily unplugged from the AC outlet in case of an accident. To avoid fire hazard, the power cord should also be unplugged from the AC outlet when left unused for a long period of time (for example, when on vacation).

Voltage selector

You can find the voltage selector switch on the rear panel of multi-voltage models.

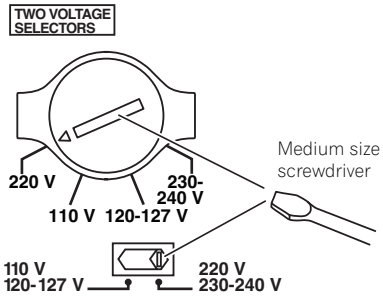
The factory setting for the voltage selector is 220 V. Please set it to the correct voltage for your country or region.

• Saudi Arabia operates on 127 V and 220 V mains voltage. Please set to the correct voltage before using.

• For Taiwan, please set to 110 V before using.

• For Mexico, please set to 120 V to 127 V before using.

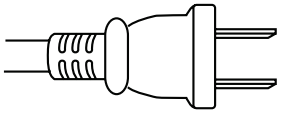
Before changing the voltage, disconnect the AC power cord. Use a medium size screwdriver to change the voltage selector switch.



D3-4-2-1-5_En

For Taiwan exclusively

Taiwanese two pin flat-bladed plug



This product is for general household purposes. Any failure due to use for other than household purposes (such as long-term use for business purposes in a restaurant or use in a car or ship) and which requires repair will be charged for even during the warranty period.

K041_En

If the AC plug of this unit does not match the AC outlet you want to use, the plug must be removed and appropriate one fitted. Replacement and mounting of an AC plug on the power supply cord of this unit should be performed only by qualified service personnel. If connected to an AC outlet, the cut-off plug can cause severe electrical shock. Make sure it is properly disposed of after removal.
The equipment should be disconnected by removing the mains plug from the wall socket when left unused for a long period of time (for example, when on vacation).

D3-4-2-2-1a_A_En

Changing the TV format setting

If the **System Setup** menu is not displayed correctly, it may be that the TV system is set incorrectly for your country or region.

• **With the receiver in standby, press ⏻STANDBY/ ON while holding down the SIGNAL SELECT button.**

The display shows the new setting (**PAL** or **NTSC**).

Changing the frequency step

If you find that you can't tune into stations successfully, the frequency step may not be suitable for your country/ region. Heres how to switch the setting:

1 Switch the receiver into standby.

2 While holding down the front panel BAND button, press the ⏻ STANDBY/ON.

The display shows the new setting:

• **9K STEP –** For areas with an FM reception of 50 kHz and AM reception of 9 kHz

• **10K STEP –** For areas with an FM reception of 100 kHz and AM reception of 10 kHz

Tip

• If you're unsure of the correct frequency step for your region, consult your local Pioneer dealer.

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Chapter 1:
Before you start

Checking what's in the box

Please check that you've received the following supplied accessories:

- Setup microphone (cable: 5 m.)
- Remote control unit
- Sub room remote control unit *(VSX-AX4ASi only)*
- AA/R6P dry cell batteries *(VSX-AX4ASi)* x4 / *(VSX-AX2AS)* x2
- AM loop antenna
- FM wire antenna
- iPod cable
- Power cords x2
- Antenna adapter
- Flat-bladed converter plug
- These operating instructions

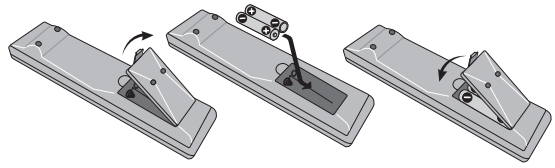
Installing the receiver

- When installing this unit, make sure to put it on a level and stable surface.

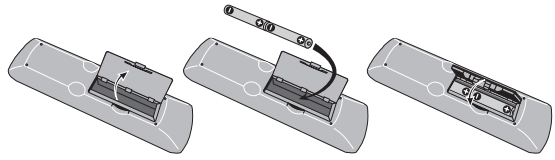
Don't install it on the following places:
– on a color TV (the screen may distort)
– near a cassette deck (or close to a device that gives off a magnetic field). This may interfere with the sound.
– in direct sunlight
– in damp or wet areas
– in extremely hot or cold areas
– in places where there is vibration or other movement
– in places that are very dusty
– in places that have hot fumes or oils (such as a kitchen)

Loading the batteries

Main remote control unit:



Sub room remote control unit (VSX-AX4ASi only):



Caution

Incorrect use of batteries may result in such hazards as leakage and bursting. Observe the following precautions:

- Never use new and old batteries together.
- Insert the plus and minus sides of the batteries properly according to the marks in the battery case.
- Batteries with the same shape may have different voltages. Do not use different batteries together.
- When disposing of used batteries, please comply with governmental regulations or environmental public instruction's rules that apply in your country or area.
- Do not use or store batteries in direct sunlight or other excessively hot place, such as inside a car or near a heater. This can cause batteries to leak, overheat, explode or catch fire. It can also reduce the life or performance of batteries.

Chapter 2:
5 minute guide

Introduction to home theater

Home theater refers to the use of multiple audio tracks to create a surround sound effect, making you feel like you're in the middle of the action or concert. The surround sound you get from a home theater system depends not only on your speaker setup, but also on the source and the sound settings of the receiver.

This receiver will automatically decode multichannel Dolby Digital, DTS, or Dolby Surround sources according to your speaker setup. In most cases, you won't have to make changes for realistic surround sound, but other possibilities (like listening to a CD with multichannel surround sound) are explained in *Listening to your system* on page 28.

Listening to Surround Sound

This receiver was designed with the easiest possible setup in mind, so with the following quick setup guide, you should have your system hooked up for surround sound in no time at all. In most cases, you can simply leave the receiver in the default settings.

- Be sure to complete all connections before connecting this unit to an AC power source.

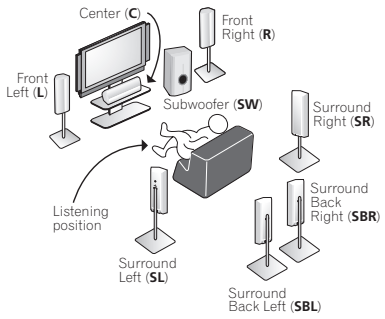
1 Connect your TV and DVD player.

See *Connecting your TV and DVD player* on page 12 to do this. For surround sound, you'll want to hook up using a digital connection from the DVD player to the receiver.

2 Connect your speakers and place them for optimal surround sound.

Connect your speakers as shown in *Installing your speaker system* on page 17.

Where you place the speakers will have a big effect on the sound. Place your speakers as shown below for the best surround sound effect. Also see *Placing the speakers* on page 18 for more on this.



3 Plug in the receiver and switch it on, followed by your DVD player, your subwoofer and the TV.

Make sure you've set the video input on your TV to this receiver. Check the manual that came with the TV if you don't know how to do this.

- Set the subwoofer volume to a comfortable level.

4 Use the on-screen automatic MCACC setup to set up your system.

See *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* below for more on this.

5 Play a DVD, and adjust the volume to your liking.

Make sure that **DVD/LD** is showing in the receiver's display, indicating that the DVD input is selected. If it isn't, press **DVD/LD** on the remote control to set the receiver to the DVD input.

In addition to the basic playback explained in *Playing a source* on page 9, there are several other sound options you can select. See *Listening to your system* on page 28 for more on this.

See also *Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu* on page 35 for more setup options.

Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)

The Auto MCACC Setup measures the acoustic characteristics of your listening area, taking into account ambient noise, speaker size and distance, and tests for both channel delay and channel level. After you have set up the microphone provided with your system, the receiver uses the information from a series of test tones to optimize the speaker settings and equalization for your particular room.

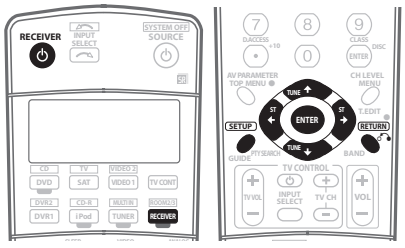
Make sure you do this before moving on to *Playing a source* on page 9.

Important

- Make sure the microphone and speakers are not moved during the Auto MCACC Setup.
- Using the Auto MCACC Setup will overwrite any existing settings for the MCACC preset you select.
- Before using the Auto MCACC Setup the headphones should be disconnected.

Caution

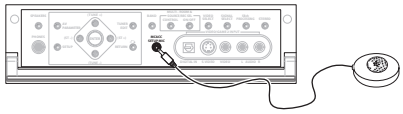
- The test tones used in the Auto MCACC Setup are output at high volume.



1 Switch on the receiver and your TV.

2 Connect the microphone to the MCACC SETUP MIC jack on the front panel.

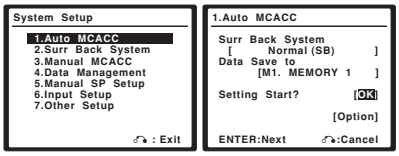
Place the microphone so that it's about ear level at your normal listening position (use a tripod if possible). Make sure there are no obstacles between the speakers and the microphone.



3 Press RECEIVER on the remote, then press SETUP.[1]

An on-screen display (OSD) appears on your TV. Use the ⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ buttons and **ENTER** to navigate through the screens and select menu items. Press **RETURN** to exit the current menu. Press **SETUP** at any time to cancel.[2]

4 Select 'Auto MCACC' from the System Setup menu then press ENTER.



5 Make sure 'Normal (SB)' is selected,[3] select an MCACC preset[4] then select OK.

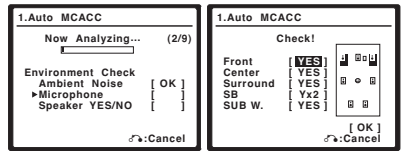
6 Follow the instructions on-screen.

Make sure the microphone is connected, and if you're using a subwoofer, make sure it is switched on and set to a comfortable volume level.

7 Wait for the test tones to finish then confirm the speaker configuration in the OSD.

A progress report is displayed on-screen while the receiver outputs test tones to determine the speakers present in your setup. Try to be as quiet as possible while it's doing this.[5]

- With error messages (such as **Ambient Noise** or **Microphone Check**) select **RETRY** after checking for ambient noise (see *Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup* below) and verifying the mic connection. If there doesn't seem to be a problem, you can simply select **OK** and continue.



The configuration shown on-screen should reflect the actual speakers you have.[6]

If you see an error message (**ERR**) in the right side column (or the speaker configuration displayed isn't correct), there may be a problem with the speaker connection. If selecting **RETRY** doesn't work, turn off the power and check the speaker connections. If there doesn't seem to be a problem, you can simply use ⬆/⬇ to select the speaker and ⬅/➡ to change the setting (and number for surround back) and continue.

8 Make sure 'OK' is selected, then press ENTER.

A progress report is displayed on-screen while the receiver outputs more test tones to determine the optimum receiver settings for channel level, speaker distance, and Acoustic Calibration EQ.

Again, try to be as quiet as possible while this is happening. It may take 2 to 6 minutes.

9 The Auto MCACC Setup has finished! Press RETURN to go back to the System Setup menu.[7]

The settings made in the Auto MCACC Setup should give you excellent surround sound from your system, but it is also possible to adjust these settings manually using the System Setup menu (starting on page 35).[8]

Note

1 You can't use the System Setup menu when the iPod input source is selected (in either the main or sub room).

2 If you cancel the Auto MCACC Setup, or leave an error message for over three minutes, the screen saver will appear.

3 • If you are planning on bi-amping your front speakers, or setting up a separate speaker system in another room, read through *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 and make sure to connect your speakers as necessary before continuing to step 6.

• If you have THX-certified speakers, select **Option** and choose **YES** for the **THX Speaker** setting.

4 The six MCACC presets are used for storing surround sound settings for different listening positions. Simply choose an unused preset for now (you can rename it later in *Data Management* on page 43).

5 Do not adjust the volume during the test tones. This may result in incorrect speaker settings.

6 If you're using the front panel display, the diagram in *Listening to Surround Sound* above indicates (in bold) how each speaker is displayed.

7 You can also choose to view the settings from the **MCACC Data Check** screen. See *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35 for more on this.

8 • Depending on the characteristics of your room, sometimes identical speakers with cone sizes of around 12 cm will end up with different size settings. You can correct the setting manually using the *Manual speaker setup* on page 44.

• The subwoofer distance setting may be farther than the actual distance from the listening position. This setting should be accurate (taking delay and room characteristics into account) and generally does not need to be changed.

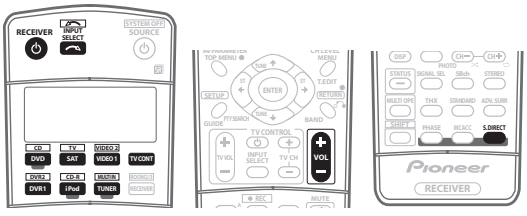
Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup

If the room environment is not optimal for the Auto MCACC Setup (too much background noise, echo off the walls, obstacles blocking the speakers from the microphone) the final settings may be incorrect. Check for household appliances (air conditioner, fridge, fan, etc.), that may be affecting the environment and switch them off if necessary. If there are any instructions showing in the front panel display, please follow them.

- Some older TVs may interfere with the operation of the microphone. If this seems to be happening, switch off the TV when doing the Auto MCACC Setup.

Playing a source

Here are the basic instructions for playing a source (such as a DVD disc) with your home theater system.



1 Switch on your system components and receiver.
Start by switching on the playback component (for example a DVD player), your TV[1] and subwoofer (if you have one), then the receiver (press ⏻ **RECEIVER**).

- Make sure the setup mic is disconnected.

2 Select the input source you want to play.
You can use the input source buttons on the remote control, **INPUT SELECT**, or the front panel **INPUT SELECTOR** dial.[2]

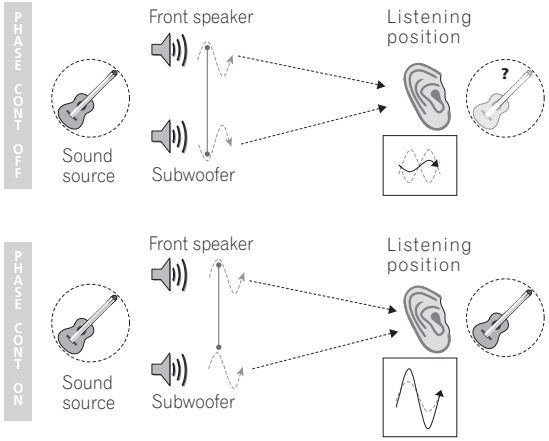
3 Press S. DIRECT (STREAM DIRECT) to select 'AUTO SURROUND' and start playback of the source.[3]
If you're playing a Dolby Digital or DTS surround sound DVD disc, you should hear surround sound. If you are playing a stereo source, you will only hear sound from the front left/right speakers in the default listening mode.

- See also *Listening to your system* on page 28 for information on different ways of listening to sources.

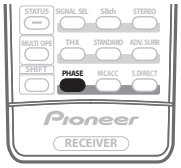
4 Use the volume control to adjust the volume level.
Turn down the volume of your TV so that all sound is coming from the speakers connected to this receiver.

Better sound using Phase Control

This receiver's Phase Control feature uses phase correction measures to make sure your sound source arrives at the listening position in phase, preventing unwanted distortion and/or coloring of the sound (see illustration below).



Phase Control technology provides coherent sound reproduction through the use of phase matching[4] for an optimal sound image at your listening position. The default setting is on and we recommend leaving Phase Control switched on for all sound sources.



- **Press PHASE (PHASE CONTROL) to switch on phase correction.**
The **PHASE CONTROL** indicator on the front panel lights.

Note

1 Make sure that the TV's video input is set to this receiver. (For example, if you connected this receiver to the **VIDEO 1** jacks on your TV, make sure that the **VIDEO 1** input is now selected.)
2 If you need to manually switch the input signal type press **SIGNAL SEL** (page 31).
3 • You may need to check the digital audio output settings on your DVD player or digital satellite receiver. It should be set to output Dolby Digital, DTS and 88.2 kHz/96 kHz PCM (2 channel) audio, and if there is an MPEG audio option, set this to convert the MPEG audio to PCM.
• Depending on your DVD player or source discs, you may only get digital 2 channel stereo and analog sound. In this case, the receiver must be set to a multichannel listening mode (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28 if you need to do this) if you want multichannel surround sound.
4 Phase matching is a very important factor in achieving proper sound reproduction. If two waveforms are 'in phase', they crest and trough together, resulting in increased amplitude, clarity and presence of the sound signal. If a crest of a wave meets a trough (as shown in the upper section of the diagram above) then the sound will be 'out of phase' and an unreliable sound image will be produced.

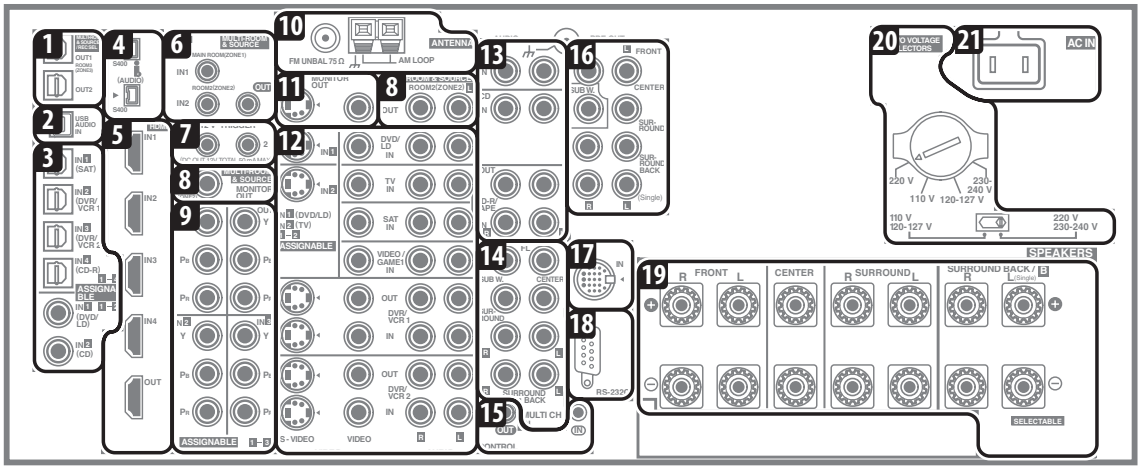
Chapter 3

Connecting your equipment

This receiver provides you with many connection possibilities, but it doesn't have to be difficult. This page explains the kinds of components you can connect to make up your home theater system.

Rear panel

This illustration shows the VSX-AX4ASi, however connections for the VSX-AX2AS are the same except where noted.



Caution

- Before making or changing the connections, switch off the power and disconnect the power cord from the power outlet. Plugging in should be the final step.

1 Optical digital audio output(s)
Use the **OUT1** and *(VSX-AX4ASi only)* **OUT2** jack for recording to a CD or MiniDisc recorder.
→ *Connecting digital audio sources* on page 15.

The **OUT1** jack is also used for multi-room connections.
→ *Multi-room listening* on page 57.

2 USB audio input *(VSX-AX4ASi only)*
Use to connect your PC as an audio source.
→ *Using the USB interface* on page 54.

3 Optical and coaxial digital audio inputs (x6)
Use for digital audio sources, including DVD players/recorders, digital satellite receivers, CD players, etc.
→ See also *The Input Setup menu* on page 63 to assign the inputs.

4 S-400 i.LINK connectors (x2) *(VSX-AX4ASi only)*
Use to connect other i.LINK audio devices for high-resolution, multichannel digital audio input/output.
→ *Using the i.LINK interface* on page 51.

5 HDMI connectors (x4) *(VSX-AX2AS)* **(x5)** *(VSX-AX4ASi)*
Multiple inputs and one output for high-quality audio/video connection to compatible HDMI devices.
→ *Connecting using HDMI* on page 50.

6 Remote inputs (multi-room and source)
Use for connection to an external remote control sensor for use in a multi-room setup, for example.
→ *Connecting an IR receiver* on page 59.

7 12V trigger jacks *(total 50 mA max.)* **(x2)**
Use to switch components in your system on and off according to the input function of the receiver.
→ *Switching components on and off using the 12 volt trigger* on page 60.

8 Multi-room and source outputs
Use to connect a second amplifier in a separate room.
→ *Multi-room listening* on page 57.

9 Component video connections (x4)
Use the inputs to connect any video source that has component video output, such as a DVD recorder. Use the output for connection to a monitor or TV.
→ *Using the component video jacks* on page 14.

10 AM and FM antenna terminals
Use to connect indoor or outdoor antennas for radio broadcasts.
→ *Connecting antennas* on page 19.

11 Composite and S-video monitor outputs
Use to connect monitors and TVs.
→ *Connecting your TV and DVD player* on page 12.

12 Audio/video source inputs/(outputs) (x6)
Use for connection to audio/visual sources, such as DVD players/recorders, VCRs, etc. Each set of inputs has jacks for composite video, S-video[1] and stereo analog audio.
→ *Connecting a DVD/HDD recorder, VCR and other video sources* on page 13.

13 Stereo analog audio source inputs/(outputs) (x3)
Use for connection to audio sources such as CD players, tape decks, turntables, etc.
→ *Connecting analog audio sources* on page 16.

14 Multichannel analog audio inputs
7.1 channel inputs for connection to a DVD player with multichannel analog outputs.
→ *Connecting the multichannel analog inputs* on page 53.

15 Control input/output
Use to connect other Pioneer components so that you can control all your equipment from a single IR remote sensor.
→ *Operating other Pioneer components with this unit's sensor* on page 76.

16 Multichannel pre-amplifier outputs
Use to connect separate amplifiers for center, surround, surround back and subwoofer channels.
→ *Connecting additional amplifiers* on page 56 (see also *Installing your speaker system* on page 17 for powered subwoofer connection).

17 iPod input terminal
Use to connect your Apple iPod as an audio or video source.
→ *Connecting an iPod* on page 48.

18 RS-232C connector
Use for connection to a PC for graphical output when using Advanced MCACC.
→ *Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output* on page 62.

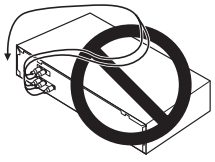
19 Speaker terminals
Use for connection to the main front, center, surround and surround back speakers.
→ *Installing your speaker system* on page 17.

20 Voltage selector switches
Use these to match the voltage coming into the receiver with the voltage in your country or region.
→ *Voltage selector* on page 3.

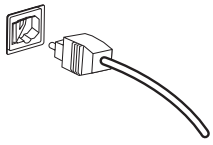
21 AC IN inlet
Connect the supplied power cord here.

When making cable connections

- To avoid hum, do not lay connected cables over the top of the receiver.



- When connecting optical cables, be careful when inserting the plug not to damage the shutter protecting the optical socket.



- When storing optical cable, coil loosely. The cable may be damaged if bent around sharp corners.

About the video converter

The video converter ensures that all video sources are output through all of the **MONITOR VIDEO OUT** jacks. The only exception is HDMI and high-definition component video: since these resolutions cannot be downsampled, you must connect your monitor/TV to the receiver's HDMI/component video outputs when connecting these video sources.[2]

If several video components are assigned to the same input function (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63), the converter gives priority to HDMI, component, S-video, then composite (in that order).

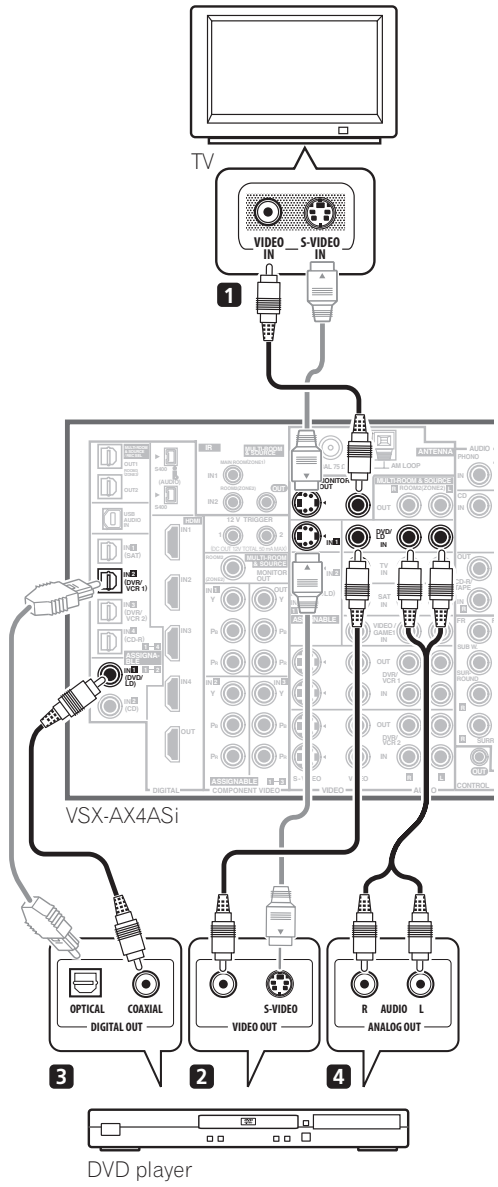
- For optimal video performance, THX recommends switching Digital Video Conversion (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66) **OFF**.

This product incorporates copyright protection technology that is protected by U.S. patents and other intellectual property rights. Use of this copyright protection technology must be authorized by Macrovision Corporation, and is intended for home and other limited consumer uses only unless otherwise authorized by Macrovision. Reverse engineering or disassembly is prohibited.

Note

1 You must assign the input source to the S-video input to which you've connected your video component (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).
2 If the video signal does not appear on your TV or plasma display, try adjusting the resolution settings on your component or display. Note that some components (such as video game units) have resolutions that may not be converted. In this case, try switching Digital Video Conversion (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66) **OFF**.

Connecting your TV and DVD player



The diagram shows a basic setup of this receiver together with a TV and DVD player, with S-video or composite video connections. Different TVs and DVD players may offer alternative connections. See also *Using the component video jacks* on page 14 if your TV and/or DVD player has component video inputs/outputs. If your DVD player offers multichannel analog audio outputs, see *Connecting the multichannel analog inputs* on page 53.

1 Connect the MONITOR OUT video jack to a video input on your TV.
Use a standard RCA/phono jack video cable to connect to the composite video jack, or for higher quality video, use an S-video cable to connect to the S-video jack.

2 Connect a composite or S-video output on your DVD player to the DVD/LD VIDEO or DVD/LD S-VIDEO input.
Connect using a standard video cable or an S-video cable.

3 Connect a coaxial-type[1] digital audio output on your DVD player to the DIGITAL 1 (DVD/LD) input.
Use a coaxial cable designed for digital audio.

4 Connect the stereo audio outputs on your DVD player to the DVD/LD AUDIO inputs.
Connect using a stereo RCA/phono jack cable.

- If your DVD player has multichannel analog outputs, you can connect these instead. See also *Connecting the multichannel analog inputs* on page 53.

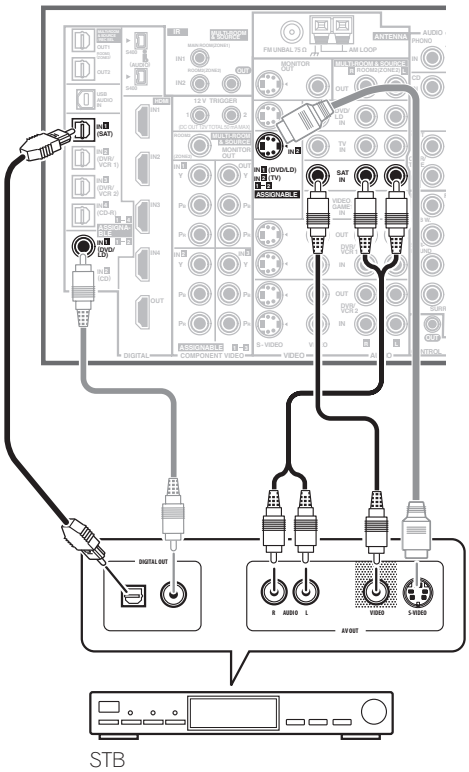
Note

1 If your DVD player only has an optical digital output, you can connect it to one of the optical inputs on this receiver using an optical cable. When you set up the receiver you'll need to tell the receiver which input you connected the player to (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).

Connecting a satellite/cable receiver or other set-top box

Satellite and cable receivers, and terrestrial digital TV tuners are all examples of so-called 'set-top boxes'.

VSX-AX4ASi



STB

1 Connect the audio/video outputs on the set-top box to the SAT AUDIO and VIDEO inputs.

Connect using a stereo RCA/phono jack cable and a video or S-video[1] cable.

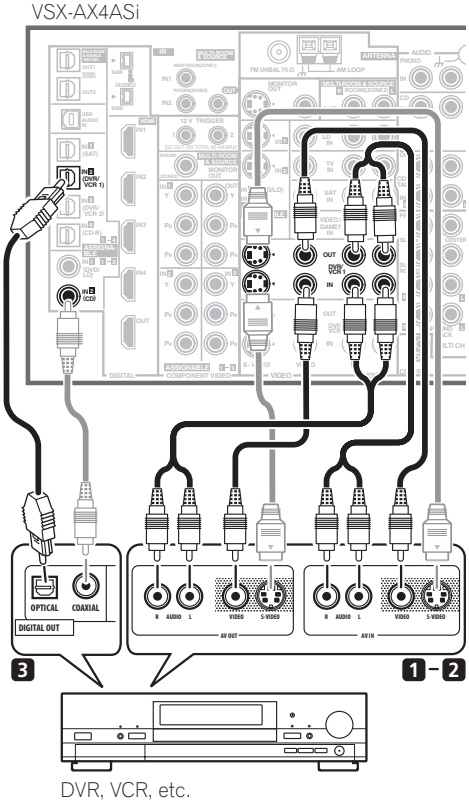
2 Connect an optical-type[2] digital audio output from your set-top box to the DIGITAL 1 (SAT) input.[3]

Use an optical cable for the connection.

Connecting a DVD/HDD recorder, VCR and other video sources

This receiver has two sets of audio/video inputs and outputs suitable for connecting analog or digital video devices, including DVD/HDD recorders and VCRs.

VSX-AX4ASi



DVR, VCR, etc.

1 Connect the audio/video outputs of the video player/recorder to the DVR/VCR1 AUDIO and VIDEO inputs.

Use a stereo RCA/phono jack audio cable for the audio connection and a video or S-video[4] cable for the video connection.

- For a second recorder, use the **DVR/VCR2 IN** inputs.

2 If the device can record, connect the DVR/VCR1 AUDIO and VIDEO outputs to the recorder's audio/video inputs.

Use a stereo RCA/phono jack audio cable for the audio connection and a video or S-video cable for the video connection.

Note

1 See *The Input Setup menu* on page 63 to assign the **S-VIDEO 2** input to the **SAT** input function if you make this connection.
2 If your set-top box only has a coaxial digital output, you can connect it to one of the coaxial inputs on this receiver using a coaxial digital audio cable. When you set up the receiver you'll need to tell the receiver which input you connected the set-top box to (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).
3 If your satellite/cable receiver doesn't have a digital audio output, you can skip this step.
4 See *The Input Setup menu* on page 63 to assign the **S-VIDEO 2** input to the **DVR/VCR1** input function if you make this connection.

- For a second recorder, use the **DVR/VCR2** outputs.

3 If the device can output digital audio, connect an optical-type[1] digital audio output from the recorder to the DIGITAL 2 (DVR/VCR1) input.

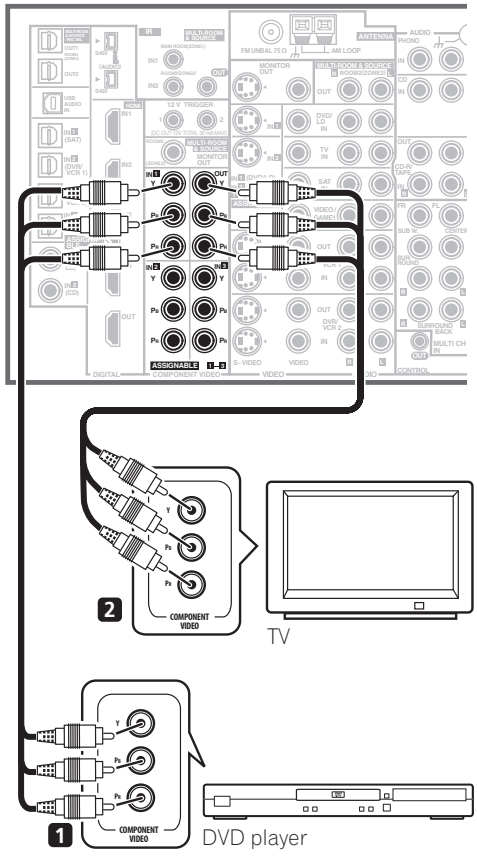
Use an optical cable for the connection.[2]

- For a second recorder, use the **DIGITAL 3** (**DVR/VCR2**) inputs.

Using the component video jacks

Component video should give superior picture quality when compared to composite or S-video. You can also take advantage of progressive scan video (if your source and TV are both compatible), which delivers a very stable, flicker-free picture. See the manuals that came with your TV and source component to check whether they are compatible with progressive-scan video.

VSX-AX4ASi



1 Connect the component video outputs of your source to a set of ASSIGNABLE COMPONENT VIDEO inputs.

Connect using a three-way component video cable.

- Since they are assignable, it doesn't matter which component video inputs you use for which source. After connecting everything, you'll need to assign the component video inputs—see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63.

2 Connect the COMPONENT VIDEO OUT jacks to the component video inputs on your TV or monitor.

Use a three-way component video cable.

Note

1 • In order to record, you must connect the analog audio cables (the digital connection is for playback only).
• If your video component doesn't have a digital audio output, you can skip this step.

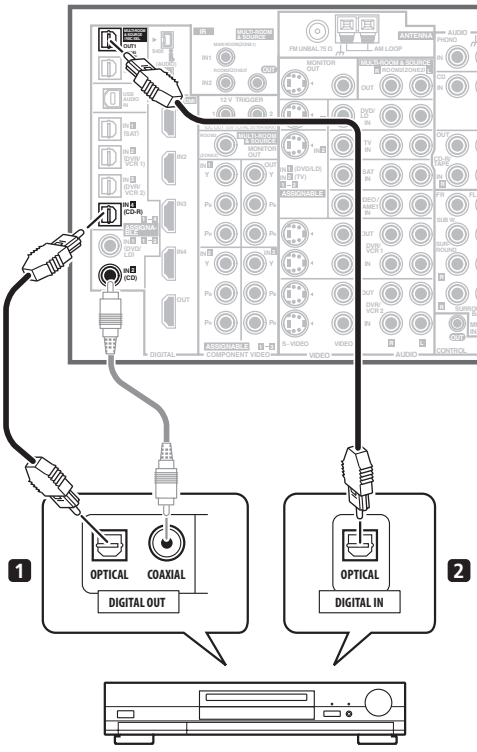
2 If your recorder only has a coaxial digital output, you can connect it to one of the coaxial inputs on this receiver using a coaxial digital audio cable. When you set up the receiver you'll need to tell the receiver which input you connected the recorder to (see also *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).

Connecting digital audio sources

This receiver has both digital inputs and outputs, allowing you to connect digital audio components for playback and for making digital recordings.

Most digital components also have analog connections. See *Connecting analog audio sources* on the following page if you want to connect these too.

VSX-AX4ASi



CD-R, MD, DAT, etc.

1 Connect an optical-type[1] digital audio output on your digital component to the DIGITAL 4 (CD-R) input.

Use an optical cable for the connection.

2 For recording equipment, connect one of the optical-type DIGITAL outputs to a digital input on the recorder.

Use an optical cable to connect to the **DIGITAL OUT1** or (VSX-AX4ASi only) **OUT2** (**OUT1** is shown in the illustration).[2]

About the WMA9 Pro decoder

This unit has an on-board Windows Media® Audio 9 Professional[3] (WMA9 Pro) decoder, so it is possible to playback WMA9 Pro-encoded audio using a coaxial or optical digital connection when connected to a WMA9 Pro-compatible player. However, the connected PC, DVD player, set-top box, etc. must be able to output WMA9 Pro format audio signals through a coaxial or optical digital output.

Note

1 • If your digital component only has a coaxial digital output, you can connect it to one of the coaxial inputs on this receiver using a coaxial cable. When you set up the receiver you'll need to tell the receiver which input you connected the component to (see also *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).

• The digital outputs from other components can be connected to any spare digital audio inputs on this receiver. You can assign them when setting up the receiver (see also *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).

2 • You must switch **ROOM 3 ON** in *Using the multi-room controls* on page 58 to hear audio from the **DIGITAL OUT1**.

• In order to record some digital sources, you must make analog connections as explained in *Connecting analog audio sources* below.

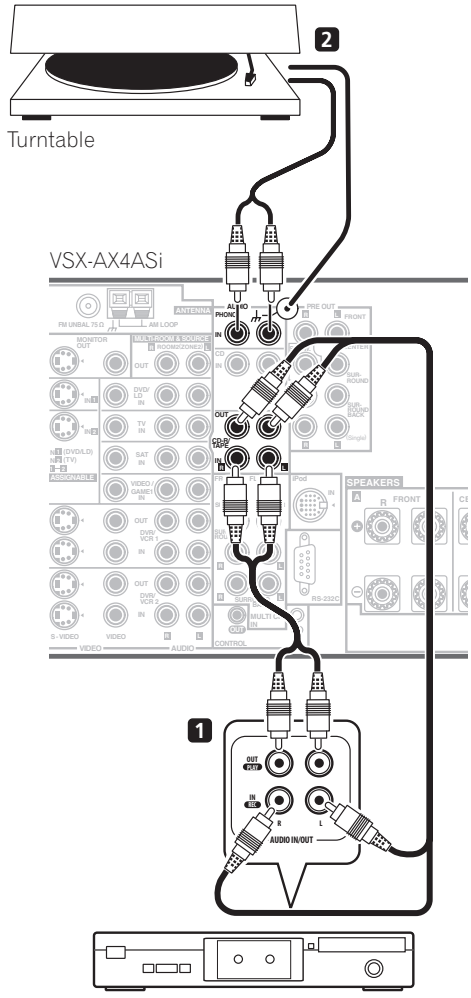
3 • *Microsoft, Windows Media®, and the Windows logo are trademarks, or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.*

• With WMA9 Pro, sound problems may occur depending on your computer system. Note that WMA9 Pro 96 kHz sources will be downsampled to 48 kHz.

Connecting analog audio sources

This receiver features three stereo audio-only inputs. Two of these inputs have corresponding outputs for use with audio recorders.

One of the audio inputs (**PHONO**) is a dedicated turntable input which should not be used for any other type of component. This input also has a grounding terminal that most turntables require.



1 Connect the analog audio outputs of the source component to one of the AUDIO inputs.

Connect using a stereo RCA/phono jack audio cable.

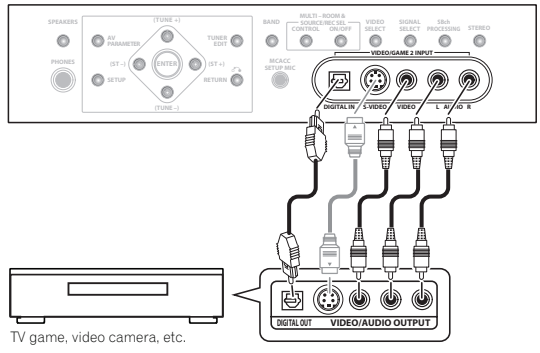
- If you're connecting a tape deck, MD recorder, etc., connect the analog audio outputs (**OUT**) to the analog audio inputs on the recorder.

2 *Turntables only:* **Connect the stereo audio outputs to the PHONO inputs.**

- If your turntable has a grounding wire, secure it to the ground terminal on this receiver.
- If your turntable has line-level outputs (i.e., it has a built-in phono pre-amp), connect it to the **CD** inputs instead.

Connecting a component to the front panel inputs

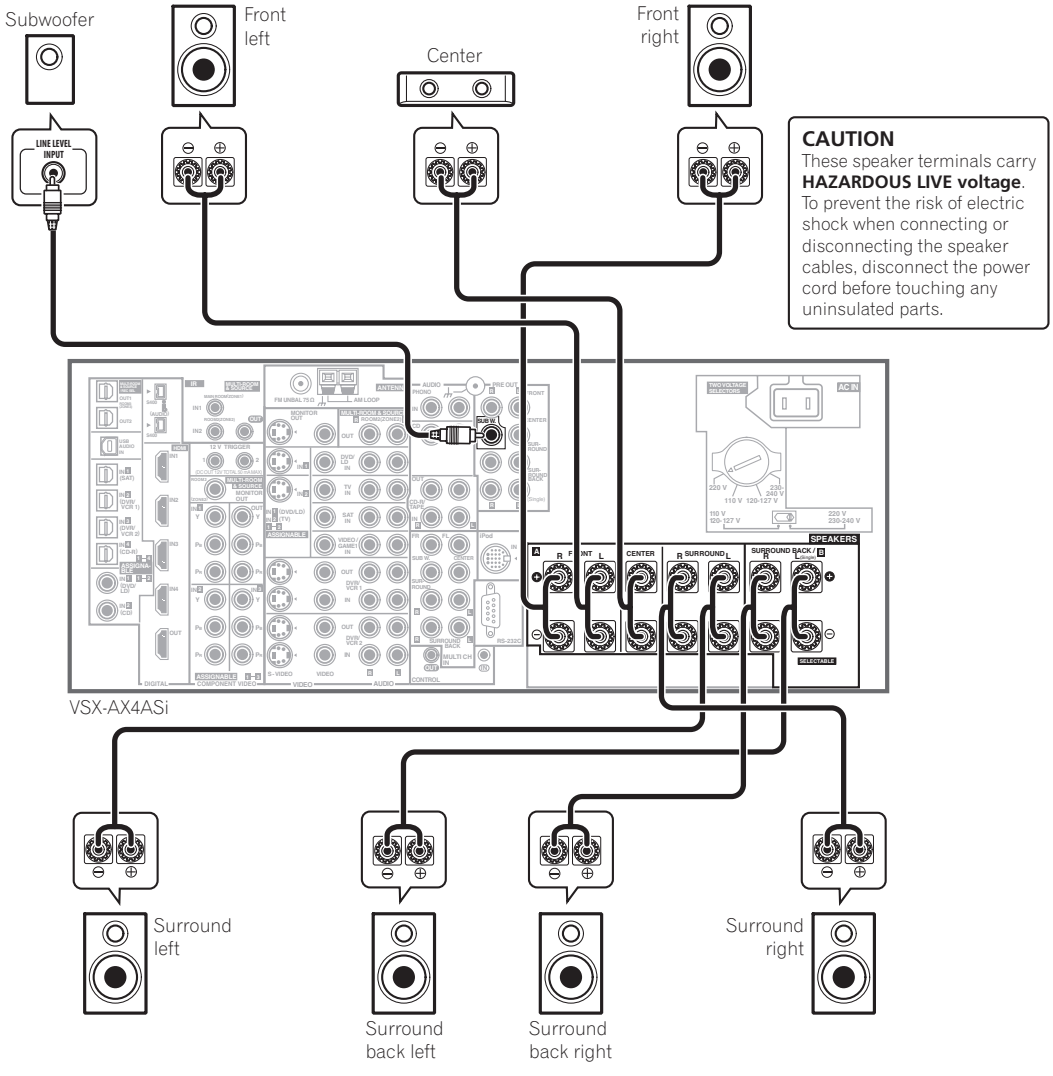
The front panel inputs comprise a composite video jack (**VIDEO**), an S-Video jack (**S-VIDEO**), stereo analog audio inputs (**AUDIO L/R**) and an optical digital audio input (**DIGITAL**). You can use these connections for any kind of audio/video component, but they are especially convenient for portable equipment such as camcorders, video games and portable audio/video equipment.



- Select these inputs using **INPUT SELECT** (remote) or the **INPUT SELECTOR** dial (front panel) to select **VIDEO/GAME 2**.

Installing your speaker system

To take full advantage of the receiver's surround sound capabilities connect front, center, surround and surround back speakers, as well as a subwoofer. Although this is ideal, other configurations with fewer speakers—no subwoofer or no center speaker, or even no surround speakers—will work. At the very least, front left and right speakers only are necessary. Note that your main surround speakers should always be connected as a pair, but you can connect just one surround back speaker if you like (it must be connected to the left surround back terminal). You can use speakers with a nominal impedance between 6 Ω to 16 Ω (please see *Switching the speaker impedance* on page 69 if you plan to use speakers with an impedance of less than 8 Ω).



Connecting the speakers

Each speaker connection on the receiver comprises a positive (+) and negative (–) terminal. Make sure to match these up with the terminals on the speakers themselves.

Caution

- Make sure that all the bare speaker wire is twisted together and inserted fully into the speaker terminal. If any of the bare speaker wire touches the back panel it may cause the power to cut off as a safety measure.

Bare wire connections

Make sure that the speaker cable you're going to use is properly prepared with about 10 mm of insulator stripped from each wire, and the exposed wire strands twisted together (*fig. A*).

To connect a terminal, unscrew the terminal a few turns until there is enough space to insert the exposed wire (*fig. B*). Once the wire is in position, tighten the terminal until the wire is firmly clamped (*fig. C*).

fig. A

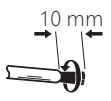


fig. B

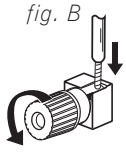
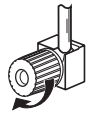


fig. C



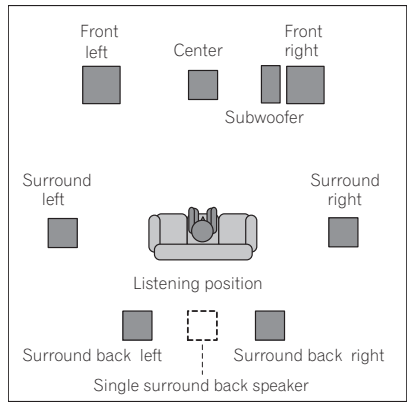
Important

- Please refer to the manual that came with your speakers for details on how to connect the other end of the speaker cables to your speakers.
- *Other connections* on page 48 provides greater detail on alternate speaker setups, such as using speaker system B (page 55), bi-amping (page 55) and bi-wiring (page 56).
- If you are using a THX certified subwoofer use the **THX INPUT** jack on the subwoofer (if your subwoofer has one) or switch the filter position to **THX** on your subwoofer.

Placing the speakers

Where you put your speakers in the room has a big effect on the quality of the sound. The following guidelines should help you to get the best sound from your system.

- The subwoofer can be placed on the floor. Ideally, the other speakers should be at about ear-level when you're listening to them. Putting the speakers on the floor (except the subwoofer), or mounting them very high on a wall is not recommended.
- For the best stereo effect, place the front speakers 2 m to 3 m apart, at equal distance from the TV.
- When placing speakers near the TV, we recommend using magnetically shielded speakers to prevent possible interference, such as discoloration of the picture when the TV is switched on. If you do not have magnetically shielded speakers and notice discoloration of the TV picture, move the speakers farther away from the TV.
- If you're using a center speaker, place the front speakers at a wider angle. If not, place them at a narrower angle.
- Place the center speaker above or below the TV so that the sound of the center channel is localized at the TV screen. Also, make sure the center speaker does not cross the line formed by the leading edge of the front left and right speakers.
- It is best to angle the speakers towards the listening position. The angle depends on the size of the room. Use less of an angle for bigger rooms.
- Surround and surround back speakers should be positioned 60 cm to 90 cm higher than your ears and titled slight downward. Make sure the speakers don't face each other. For DVD-Audio, the speakers should be more directly behind the listener than for home theater playback.
- Try not to place the surround speakers farther away from the listening position than the front and center speakers. Doing so can weaken the surround sound effect.
- To achieve the best possible surround sound, install your speakers as shown below. Be sure all speakers are installed securely to prevent accidents and improve sound quality.



Caution

- Make sure that all speakers are securely installed. This not only improves sound quality, but also reduces the risk of damage or injury resulting from speakers being knocked over or falling in the event of external shocks such as earthquakes.

The diagrams below show suggested surround and surround back speaker orientation. The first diagram (*fig. A*) shows orientation with one surround back speaker (or none) connected. The second (*fig. B*) shows orientation with two surround back speakers connected.

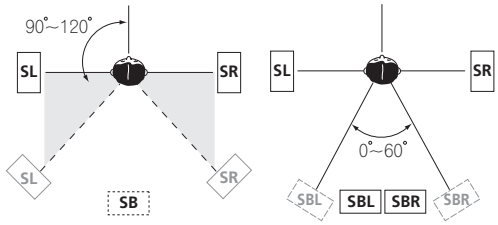
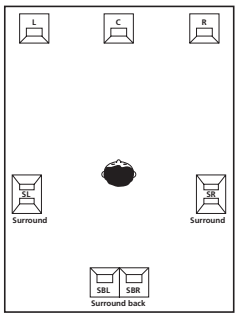


fig. A *fig. B*

- If you have two surround back speakers THX recommends placing them together and the same distance from your listening position (see below).

THX speaker system setup

If you have a complete THX speaker system, follow the diagram below to place your speakers. Note that the surround speakers (⧖ indicates bi-polar radiating speakers) should output at an angle parallel to the listener.

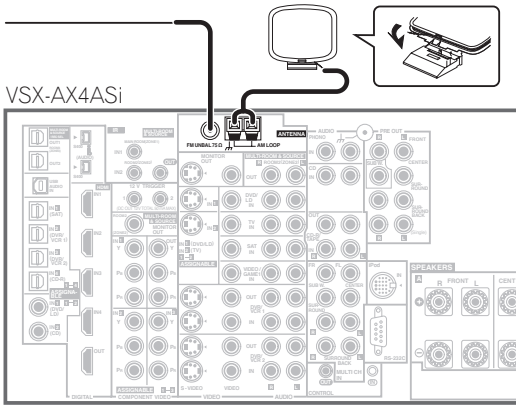


- If you have two surround back speakers THX recommends placing them together and the same distance from your listening position for the following THX modes: **THX Select2 CINEMA**, **THX MUSICMODE** and **THX GAMES MODE**.

See also *THX Audio Setting* on page 47 to make the settings that will give you the best sound experience when using the Home THX modes (on page 29).

Connecting antennas

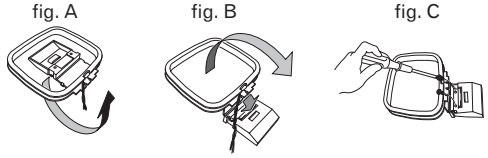
The supplied antennas provide a simple way to listen to AM and FM radio. If you find that reception quality is poor, an outdoor antenna should give you better sound quality—see *Using an external antenna to improve FM reception* below.



AM loop antenna

1 Assemble the stand as shown in the illustration.

fig. A fig. B fig. C



- Bend the stand in the direction indicated (fig. A).
- Clip the loop into the stand (fig. B).
- It's possible to fix the AM antenna to a wall (fig. C). Before fixing, make sure that the reception is satisfactory.

2 Pull off the protective shields of both AM antenna wires.

3 Press the AM LOOP antenna terminal tabs to open and insert one wire into each terminal.

4 Release the tabs to secure the AM antenna wires.

5 Place the AM antenna on a flat surface and point in the direction giving the best reception.

Avoid placing near computers, television sets or other electrical appliances and do not let it come into contact with metal objects.

Important

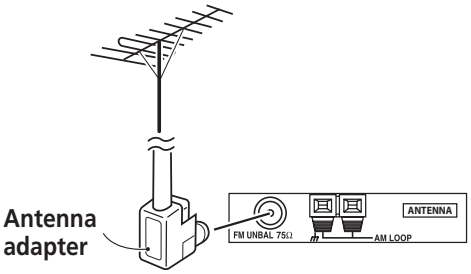
- The signal ground (⏚) is designed to reduce noise that occurs when an antenna is connected. It is not an electrical safety ground.

FM wire antenna

• Connect the FM wire antenna to the FM UNBAL 75 Ω in the same way as the AM antenna.
For best results, extend the FM antenna fully and fix to a wall or door frame. Don't drape loosely or leave coiled up.

Using an external antenna to improve FM reception

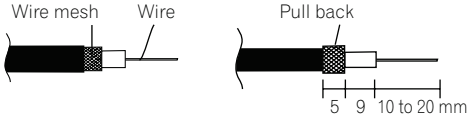
Use an F connector to connect an external FM antenna using a coaxial 75 Ω cable.



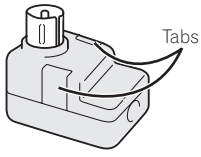
Attaching the antenna adapter

Use the antenna adaptor to terminate the coaxial cable used with an external FM antenna.

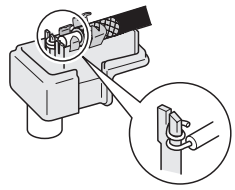
1 Cut and strip the coaxial cable to the specification shown in the diagram.



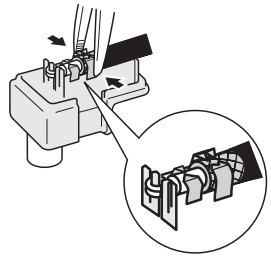
2 Open the adaptor body by pulling apart the tabs on either side.



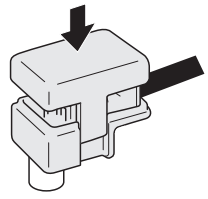
3 Insert the cable as shown, then use a pair of pliers to wrap the end of the wire around the binding post. Snip off the excess wire.



4 Use pliers to secure the cable by pinching the clamps together, as shown.



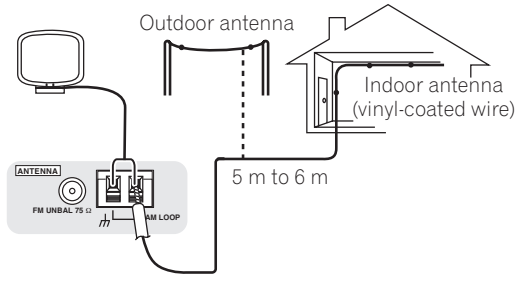
5 Push the body cover back on.



Using an external antenna to improve AM reception

To improve AM reception, connect a 5 m to 6 m length of vinyl-coated wire to the **AM LOOP** terminals without disconnecting the supplied AM loop antenna.

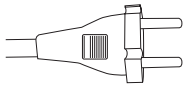
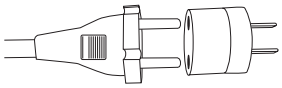
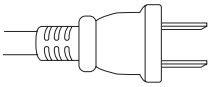
For the best possible reception, suspend horizontally outdoors.



Plugging in the receiver

After you've finished making all connections, plug the receiver into an AC outlet. The type of cord and the plug converter which can be used depends on the power voltage in each region or country. Please make sure you use the correct cord and plug converter due to the possibility of fire or other hazard if used incorrectly (see below).

AC power cord and converter plug use

Region	Plug type
For European type region **Caution** Do not use this power cord set in Singapore and Malaysia.	 European two-pin plug
For regions with two pin flat-bladed plug **Caution** Do not use this power cord set in Taiwan.	 European two-pin plug with two-pin flat-bladed converter plug
For Taiwan exclusively **Caution** For use in Taiwan only. In other areas, please do not use.	 Taiwanese two-pin flat-bladed plug

Caution

- Handle the power cord by the plug part. Do not pull out the plug by tugging the cord, and never touch the power cord when your hands are wet, as this could cause a short circuit or electric shock. Do not place the unit, a piece of furniture, or other object on the power cord or pinch the cord in any other way. Never make a knot in the cord or tie it with other cables. The power cords should be routed so that they are not likely to be stepped on. A damaged power cord can cause a fire or give you an electric shock. Check the power cord once in a while. If you find it damaged, ask your nearest Pioneer authorized independent service company for a replacement.
- Do not use any power cord other than the one supplied with this unit.
- Do not use the supplied power cord for any purpose other than that described below.
- The receiver should be disconnected by removing the mains plug from the wall socket when not in regular use, e.g., when on vacation.
- Make sure the blue ⏻ **STANDBY/ON** light has gone out before unplugging.

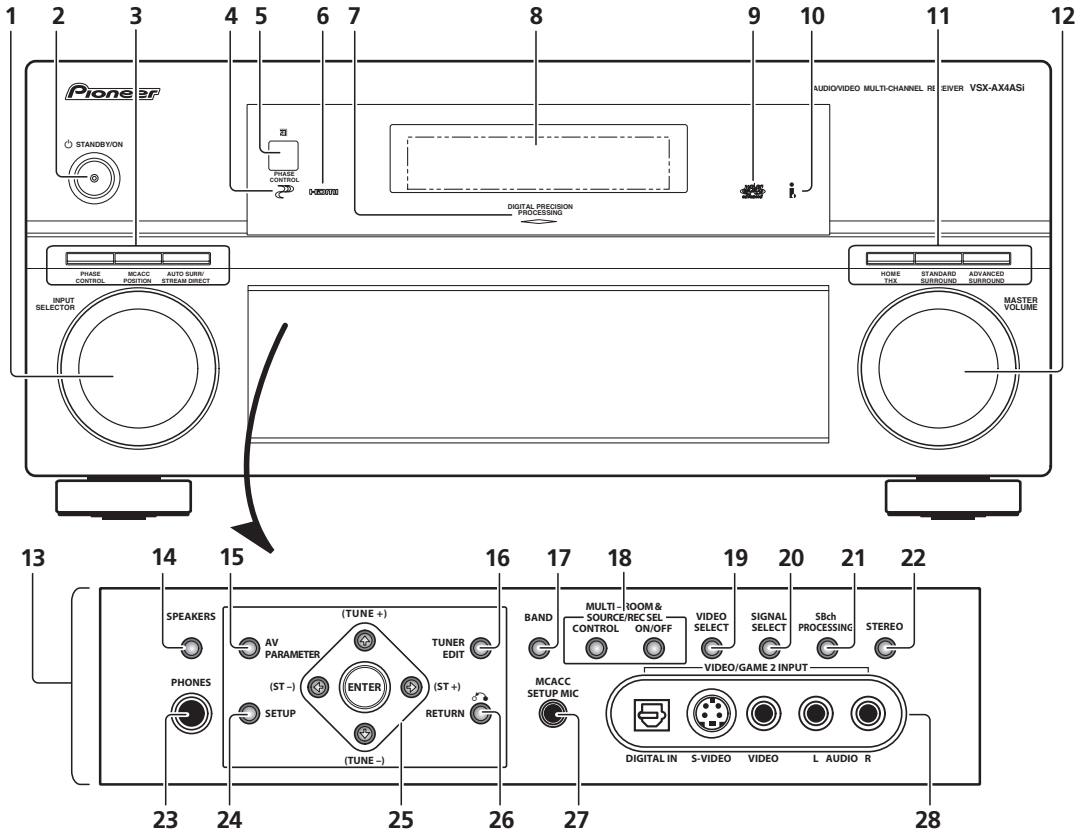
1 Plug the supplied power cord into the AC IN socket on the back of the receiver.

2 Plug the other end into a power outlet.

Chapter 4:
Controls and displays

Front panel

Illustration shows the VSX-AX4ASi front panel



1 INPUT SELECTOR dial
Use to select an input source.

2 ⏻ STANDBY/ON
Switches the receiver between on and standby. Power indicator lights when the receiver is on.

3 PHASE CONTROL – Press to switch on/off phase correction (page 9).

MCACC POSITION – Press to switch between MCACC presets (page 30).

AUTO SURR / **STREAM DIRECT** – Press to select Auto Surround (page 28) or Stream Direct (page 30) listening.

4 PHASE CONTROL indicator
Lights when Phase Control is switched on (page 9).

5 Remote sensor
Receives the signals from the remote control (see *Operating range of remote control unit* on page 23).

6 HDMI indicator
Blinks when connecting an HDMI-equipped component; lights when the component is connected (page 50).

7 Digital Precision Processing indicator
Lights to indicate digital processing (for example, it disappears when Pure Direct (page 30) is on, or when listening through the multichannel analog inputs).

8 Character display
See *Display* on page 24.

9 MCACC indicator
Lights when one of the MCACC presets (page 30) is selected.

10 i.LINK indicator *(VSX-AX4ASi only)*
Lights when an i.LINK-Audio-equipped component is selected (page 51).

DIGITAL VIDEO SCALER indicator *(VSX-AX2AS only)*
Lights when Resolution is set to a setting other than **PURE** (for example, when the video input signal is upscaled) (page 66).

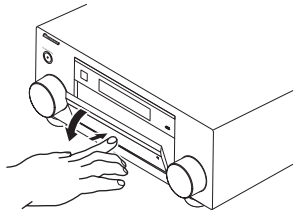
11 Listening mode buttons
HOME THX – Press to select a Home THX listening mode (page 29).

STANDARD SURROUND – Press for Standard decoding and to switch between the various Pro Logic IIx and Neo:6 options (page 28).

ADVANCED SURROUND – Use to switch between the various surround modes (page 29).

12 MASTER VOLUME dial

13 Front panel controls
To access the front panel controls, push gently on the lower third portion of the panel with your finger.



14 SPEAKERS
Use to change the speaker system (page 55).

15 AV PARAMETER
Use to access the AV options (page 66).

16 TUNER EDIT
Use with ⬅/➡ to memorize and name stations for recall (page 33).

17 BAND
Switches between AM and FM radio bands (page 33).

18 MULTI ROOM & SOURCE / REC SEL controls
If you've made multi-room connections (see *Multi-room listening* on page 57) use these controls to control the sub room from the main room (see *Using the multi-room controls* on page 58).

You will also need to use the **REC SEL** controls when recording a source (see *Making an audio or a video recording* on page 67).

19 VIDEO SELECT
Press repeatedly to select the video source (page 68).

20 SIGNAL SELECT
Use to select an input signal (page 31).

21 SBch PROCESSING
Selects the surround back channel mode (page 31) or virtual surround back mode (page 31).

22 STEREO
Switches to stereo playback (page 30).

23 PHONES jack
Use to connect headphones. When the headphones are connected, there is no sound output from the speakers.

24 SETUP
Press to access the System Setup menu (see page 35).

25 ⬅➡⬇⬆ (TUNE/ST +/–) /ENTER
Use the arrow buttons when setting up your surround sound system (see page 35). Use the **TUNE +/–** buttons to find radio frequencies and use **ST +/–** to find preset stations (page 33).

26 RETURN
Press to confirm and exit the current menu screen.

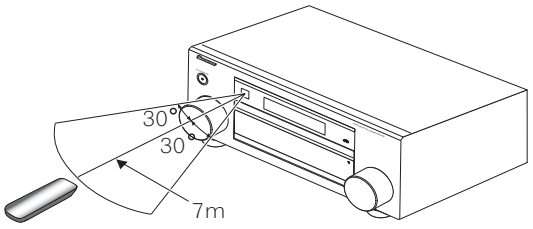
27 MCACC SETUP MIC jack
Use to connect the supplied microphone.

28 VIDEO/GAME 2 INPUT
See *Connecting a component to the front panel inputs* on page 16.

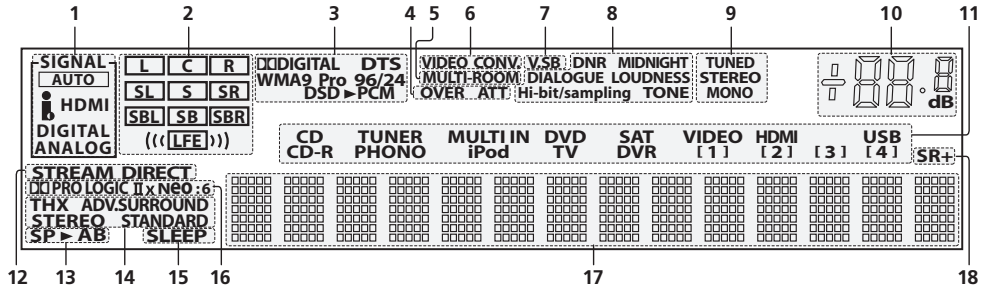
Operating range of remote control unit

The remote control may not work properly if:

- There are obstacles between the remote control and the receiver's remote sensor.
- Direct sunlight or fluorescent light is shining onto the remote sensor.
- The receiver is located near a device that is emitting infrared rays.
- The receiver is operated simultaneously with another infrared remote control unit.



Display



1 SIGNAL indicators
Light to indicate the currently selected input signal. **AUTO** lights when the receiver is set to select the input signal automatically (page 31).

2 Program format indicators
These change according to which channels are active in digital sources.

L – Left front channel
C – Center channel
R – Right front channel
SL – Left surround channel
S – Surround channel (mono)
SR – Right surround channel
SBL – Left surround back channel
SB – Surround back channel (mono)
SBR – Right surround back channel
LFE – Low frequency effects channel (the **((()))** indicators light when an LFE signal is being input)

3 Digital format indicators
Light when a signal encoded in the corresponding format is detected (**DSD►PCM** lights during DSD (Digital Stream Direct) to PCM conversion with SACDs (VSX-AX4ASi only)).

4 OVER / ATT
OVER lights to indicate that the level of an analog source is too high. **ATT** lights when you use the attenuator (**ANALOG ATT**) to reduce it.

5 MULTI-ROOM
Lights when the multi-room feature is active (page 57).

6 VIDEO CONV.
Lights when digital video conversion is switched on (see *Setting the AV options* on page 66).

7 V.SB
Lights during Virtual surround back processing (page 31).

8 Sound processing indicators
Light according to the active AV parameter(s) (page 66).

9 TUNER indicators
TUNED – Lights when a broadcast is being received.

STEREO – Lights when a stereo FM broadcast is being received in auto stereo mode.

MONO – Lights when the mono mode is set using the **MPX** button.

10 Master volume level
Shows the overall volume level. **–80dB** indicates the minimum level, and **+12dB** indicates the maximum level.

11 Input source indicators
Light to indicate the input source you have selected.

12 STREAM DIRECT
Lights when Direct / Pure Direct is selected (page 30).

13 Speaker indicators
Indicate the current speaker system, **A** and/or **B** (page 55).

14 Listening mode indicators
THX – Lights when a Home THX mode is selected.

ADV. SURROUND – Lights when an Advanced Surround mode has been selected.

STEREO – Lights when stereo listening is switched on (see *Listening in stereo* on page 30).

STANDARD – Lights when a Standard Surround mode is switched on (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28).

15 SLEEP
Lights when the receiver is in sleep mode (page 69).

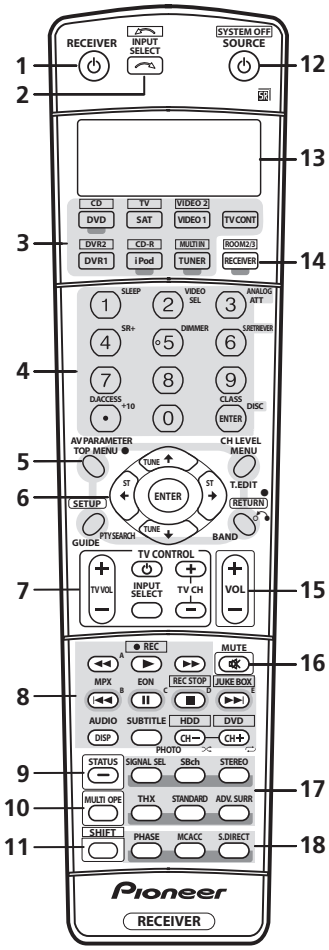
16 Matrix decoding format indicators
PRO LOGIC IIx – This lights to indicate Pro Logic II / Pro Logic IIx decoding (page 28).

Neo:6 – When one of the Neo:6 modes of the receiver is on, this lights to indicate Neo:6 processing (page 28).

17 Character display
Displays various system information.

18 SR+
Lights when the SR+ mode is switched on (page 61).

Remote control



The remote has been conveniently color-coded according to component control using the following system (press the corresponding input source button to access):

- **Green** – Receiver controls (see below)
- **Red** – DVD controls (page 75)
- **Blue** – Tuner controls (page 33)
- **Yellow** – iPod controls (page 48)
- **White** – Other controls (page 75)

1 RECEIVER⏻

This switches between standby and on for this receiver.

2 INPUT SELECT

Use to select the input source (use **SHIFT** for **INPUT SELECT** ⏎).

3 Input source buttons

Press to select control of other components (see *Controlling the rest of your system* on page 71).

4 Number buttons and other receiver/component controls

Use the number buttons to directly select a radio frequency (page 33) or the tracks on a CD, DVD, etc.

DISC (ENTER) can be used to enter commands for TV or DTV, and also to select a disc in a multi-CD player.

Press **RECEIVER** first to access:

SLEEP – Use to put the receiver in sleep mode and select the amount of time before sleep (page 69).

VIDEO SEL – Press repeatedly to select the video source (page 68).

ANALOG ATT – Attenuates (lowers) the level of an analog input signal to prevent distortion (page 68).

SR+ – Switches the SR+ mode on/off (page 61).

DIMMER – Dims or brightens the display (page 69).

S. RETRIEVER – Press to restore CD quality sound to compressed audio sources (page 32).

Press **TUNER** first to access:

D.ACCESS – After pressing, you can access a radio station directly using the number buttons (page 33).

CLASS – Switches between the three banks (classes) of radio station presets (page 33).

5 Tuner/component control buttons/SETUP

These button controls can be accessed after you have selected the corresponding input source button (**DVD**, **DVR1**, **SAT** etc.). The **BAND** and **T.EDIT** tuner controls are explained from page 33. Press **RECEIVER** first to access the following controls:

AV PARAMETER – Use to access the AV options (page 66).

SETUP – Use to access the System Setup menu (page 35).

CH LEVEL – Press repeatedly to select a channel, then use ⬅/➡ to adjust the level (page 46).

RETURN – Press to confirm and exit the current menu screen (also use to return to the previous menu with DVDs or to select closed captioning with DTV).

6 ⬅➡⬇⬆ (TUNE/ST) /ENTER

Use the arrow buttons when setting up your surround sound system (see page 35) and the AV options (page 66). Also used to control DVD menus/options and for deck 1 of a double cassette deck player. Use the **TUNE** ⬆/⬇ buttons to find radio frequencies and use **ST** ⬅/➡ to find preset stations (page 33).

7 TV CONTROL buttons
These buttons are dedicated to control the TV assigned to the **TV CONT** button. Thus if you only have one TV to hook up to this system assign it to the **TV CONT** input source button. If you have two TVs, assign the main TV to the **TV CONT** button (see page 71 for more on this).

TV⏻ – Use to turn on/off the power of the TV.

TV VOL +/– – Use to adjust the volume on your TV.

INPUT SELECT – Use to select the TV input signal.

TV CH +/– – Use to select channels.

8 Component control buttons
The main buttons (▶, ■, etc.) are used to control a component after you have selected it using the input source buttons.

The controls above these buttons can be accessed after you have selected the corresponding input source button (for example **DVD**, **DVR1**, **TV** or **SAT**). The following controls can be accessed when listening to the built-in tuner:

MPX – Switches between stereo and mono reception of FM broadcasts. If the signal is weak then switching to mono will improve the sound quality (page 33).

DISP – Switches between named station presets and radio frequencies (page 34).

9 STATUS
Press to check selected receiver settings (page 69).

10 MULTIOPE
Use this button to perform multi operations (page 73).

11 SHIFT
Press to access the controls outlined in white boxes (for example, **INPUT SELECT** ⏍), or to display the currently selected input source in the remote control LCD.

12 SOURCE⏻
Press to turn on/off other components connected to the receiver (see page 71 for more on this).

13 Character display (LCD)
This display shows information when transmitting control signals.

The following commands are shown when you're setting the remote to control other components (see *Controlling the rest of your system* on page 71):

SETUP – Indicates the setup mode, from which you choose the options below.

PRESET – See *Selecting preset codes directly* on page 71.

LEARNING – See *Programming signals from other remote controls* on page 71.

MULTI OP – See *Multi Operation and System Off* on page 73.

SYS OFF – See *Multi Operation and System Off* on page 73.

DIRECT F – See *Direct function* on page 73.

RENAME – See *Renaming input source names* on page 73.

ERASE – See *Erasing one of the remote control button settings* on page 72.

RESET – See *Resetting the remote control presets* on page 72.

READ ID – See *Confirming preset codes* on page 72.

14 RECEIVER
Switches the remote to control the receiver (used to select the green commands above the number buttons (**ANALOG ATT**, etc). Also use this button to set up surround sound (page 7, page 35). With **SHIFT**, this selects the multi-room control (page 57), shown in the display as **RCV/RM2**, **RCV/RM3**.

15 VOL +/–
Use to set the listening volume.

16 MUTE
Mutes the sound or restores the sound if it has been muted (adjusting the volume also restores the sound).

17 Receiver controls
SIGNAL SEL – Use to select an input signal (page 31).

SBch – Use to select the surround/virtual back channel mode (page 31).

STEREO – Switches between direct and stereo playback. Direct playback bypasses the tone controls and any other signal processing for the most accurate reproduction of a source (page 30).

THX – Press to select a Home THX listening mode (page 29).

STANDARD – Press for Standard decoding and to switch between the various Pro Logic IIx and Neo:6 options (page 28).

ADV.SURR – Use to switch between the various surround modes (page 29).

18 PHASE – Press to switch on/off phase correction (page 9).

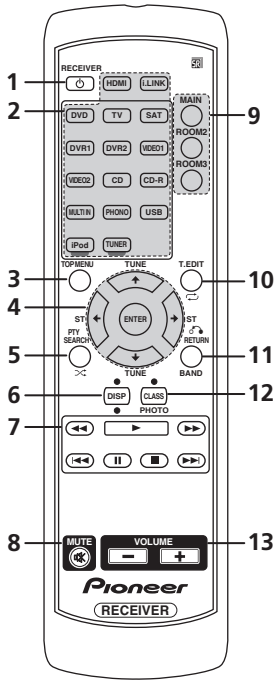
MCACC – Press to switch between MCACC presets (page 30).

S.DIRECT – Press to select Auto Surround (page 28) or Stream Direct (page 30) listening.

Sub remote control unit

VSX-AX4ASi only

The second remote control supplied with this receiver is for use with the multi-room listening feature, as explained on page 57. Note that you must connect a separate IR receiver as explained in *Connecting an IR receiver* on page 59 for remote control in your sub room(s).



1 RECEIVER⏻

This switches between standby and on for this receiver.

2 Input source buttons

Press to select control of other components (see *Controlling the rest of your system* on page 71).

3 TOP MENU

Displays the top menu of an iPod.

4 ⬅➡⬇⬆ (TUNE/ST) /ENTER

Use the arrow buttons when setting up your surround sound system (see page 35) and the AV options (page 66). Also used to control iPod menus. Use the **TUNE** ⬆/⬇ buttons to find radio frequencies and use **ST** ⬅/➡ to find preset stations (page 33).

5 ⤮

Selects the shuffle mode of an iPod (page 48).

6 DISP

Switches between named station presets and radio frequencies (page 34).

7 Component control buttons

These are used to control a component after you have selected it using the input source buttons.

8 MUTE

Mutes the sound or restores the sound if it has been muted (adjusting the volume also restores the sound).

9 Multi-room select

Selects the room you want to control using this remote.

10 T.EDIT

Use with ⬅/➡ to memorize and name stations for recall (page 33).

⟲

Selects the repeat mode of an iPod (page 48).

11 RETURN

Press to confirm and exit the current menu screen.

BAND

Switches between AM and FM radio bands (page 33).

12 CLASS

Switches between the three banks (classes) of radio station presets (page 33).

PHOTO

Press to view iPod photos and video content (page 49).

13 VOLUME +/–

Use to set the listening volume.

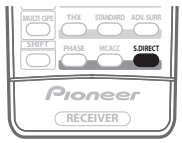
Chapter 5:
Listening to your system

Important

- The listening modes and many features described in this section may not be available depending on the current source, settings and status of the receiver. See *Listening modes with different input signal formats* on page 86 for more on this.

Auto playback

There are many ways to listen back to sources using this receiver, but for the simplest, most direct listening option is the Auto Surround feature. The receiver automatically detects what kind of source you're playing and selects multichannel or stereo playback as necessary.[1]



- **While listening to a source, press S.DIRECT (AUTO SURR/STREAM DIRECT)[2] for auto playback of a source.**

AUTO SURROUND shows briefly in the display before showing the decoding or playback format. Check the digital format indicators in the front panel display to see how the source is being processed.

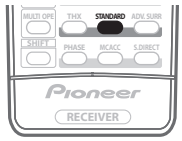
Listening in surround sound

Using this receiver, you can listen to any source in surround sound. However, the options available will depend on your speaker setup and the type of source you're listening to.

If you connected surround back speakers, see also *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31.

Standard surround sound

The following modes provide basic surround sound for stereo and multichannel sources.[3]



- **While listening to a source, press STANDARD (STANDARD SURROUND).**

If necessary, press repeatedly to select a listening mode.

- If the source is Dolby Digital, DTS, or Dolby Surround encoded, the proper decoding format will automatically be selected and shows in the display.[4]

With two channel sources, you can select from:

- **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE** – Up to 7.1 channel sound, especially suited to movie sources
- **DD Pro Logic IIx MUSIC** – Up to 7.1 channel sound, especially suited to music sources[5]
- **DD Pro Logic IIx GAME**– Up to 7.1 channel sound, especially suited to video games
- **DD PRO LOGIC** – 4.1 channel surround sound (sound from the surround speakers is mono)
- **Neo:6 CINEMA** – 6.1 channel sound, especially suited to movie sources
- **Neo:6 MUSIC** – 6.1 channel sound, especially suited to music sources[6]

With multichannel sources, if you have connected surround back speaker(s) and have selected **SBch ON**, you can select (according to format):

- **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE** – See above (only available when you're using two surround back speakers)
- **DD Pro Logic IIx MUSIC** – See above
- **Dolby Digital EX** – Creates surround back channel sound for 5.1 channel sources and provides pure decoding for 6.1 channel sources (like Dolby Digital Surround EX)
- **DTS-ES** – Allows you to hear 6.1 channel playback with DTS-ES encoded sources
- **DTS Neo:6** – Allows you to hear 6.1 channel playback with DTS encoded sources

Note

1 • Stereo surround (matrix) formats are decoded accordingly using **Neo:6 CINEMA** or **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE** (see *Listening in surround sound* above for more on these decoding formats).
• The Auto Surround feature is canceled if you connect headphones or select the multichannel analog inputs.

2 For more options using this button, see *Using Stream Direct* on page 30.

3 In modes that give 6.1 channel sound, the same signal is heard from both surround back speakers.

4 If surround back channel processing (page 31) is switched **OFF**, or the surround back speakers are set to **NO** (this happens automatically if the *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 is set to anything but **Normal (SB)**), **DD Pro Logic IIx** becomes **DD Pro Logic II** (5.1 channel sound).

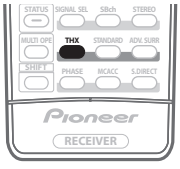
5 When listening to 2-channel sources in Dolby Pro Logic IIx Music mode, there are three further parameters you can adjust: Center Width, Dimension, and Panorama. See *Setting the AV options* on page 66 to adjust them.

6 When listening to 2-channel sources in Neo:6 Music mode, you can also adjust the center image effect (see *Setting the AV options* on page 66).

Using the Home THX modes

THX and Home THX are technical standards created by THX Ltd. for cinema and home theater sound. Home THX is designed to make home theater audio sound more like what you hear in a cinema.

Different THX options will be available depending on the source and the setting for surround back channel processing (see *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31 for more on this).



- **Press THX (HOME THX) to select a listening mode.[1]**

With two channel sources, press **THX (HOME THX)** repeatedly to select a matrix-decoding process for the **THX CINEMA** mode (see *Listening in surround sound* above for an explanation of each process):

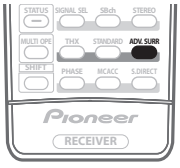
- **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**
- **DD PRO LOGIC+THX**
- **Neo:6 CINEMA+THX**
- **THX GAMES MODE**

With multichannel sources, press **THX (HOME THX)** repeatedly to select from:

- **THX CINEMA** – Gives you cinema-quality sound from your home theatre system using all the speakers in your setup
- **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX** – Especially suited to movie sources, this allows you to hear 7.1 channel playback with 5.1 channel sources
- **THX Surround EX** – Allows you to hear 6.1 or 7.1 channel playback with 5.1 channel sources
- **THX Select2 CINEMA** – Allows you to hear 7.1 channel playback with 5.1 channel sources
- **THX MUSICMODE** – Allows you to hear 7.1 channel playback with 5.1 channel sources
- **THX GAMES MODE** – Allows you to hear 7.1 channel playback from the output of a video game console

Using the Advanced surround effects

The Advanced surround effects can be used for a variety of additional surround sound effects. Most Advanced Surround modes are designed to be used with film soundtracks, but some modes are also suited for music sources. Try different settings with various soundtracks to see which you like.



- **Press ADV.SURR (ADVANCED SURROUND) repeatedly to select a listening mode.[2]**
 - **ACTION** – Designed for action movies with dynamic soundtracks
 - **SCI-FI** – Designed for science fiction with lots of special effects
 - **DRAMA** – Designed for movies with lots of dialog
 - **MUSICAL** – Creates a concert hall-type sound for musicals
 - **MONOFILM** – Creates surround sound from mono soundtracks
 - **7-D THEATER** – Creates an extra wide stereo field
 - **CLASSICAL** – Gives a large concert hall-type sound
 - **CHAMBER** – Creates a space with alot of reverb
 - **JAZZ** – Creates the sound of a small jazz club
 - **ROCK** – Creates a live concert sound for rock music
 - **DANCE** – Designed for music with lots of bass
 - **7ch STEREO** – Allows you to hear stereo sources from all the speakers in your setup
 - **ADV. VIR. SURR.** – A virtual surround effect using just the subwoofer and/or the front speakers
 - **PhonesSurround** – When listening through headphones, you can still get the effect of overall surround

Tip

- When an Advanced Surround listening mode is selected (except **ADV. VIR. SURR.**), the effect level can be adjusted using the **EFFECT** parameter in *Setting the AV options* on page 66.

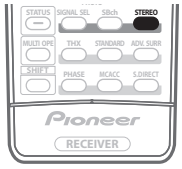
Note

1 • If you only have one surround back speaker connected, **DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**, **THX Select2 CINEMA**, **THX MUSICMODE** and **THX GAMES MODE** are not available.
• You can't use the THX modes when headphones are connected.

2 • Depending on the source and the sound mode you have selected, you may not get sound from the surround back speakers in your setup. For more on this, refer to *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31.
• If you press **ADV. SURR** when the headphones are connected, the **PhonesSurround** mode will automatically be selected.

Listening in stereo

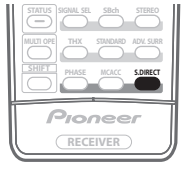
When you select **STEREO**, you will hear the source through just the front left and right speakers (and possibly your subwoofer depending on your speaker settings). Dolby Digital and DTS multichannel sources are downmixed to stereo.



- **While listening to a source, press STEREO for stereo playback.**

Using Stream Direct

Use the Stream Direct modes when you want to hear the truest possible reproduction of a source. All unnecessary signal processing is bypassed, and you're left with the pure analog or digital sound source (see *Stream direct with different input signal formats* on page 88).



1 While listening to a source, press S.DIRECT (AUTO SURR/STREAM DIRECT) to select the mode you want.

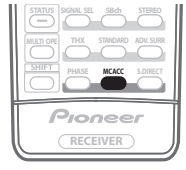
Check the digital format indicators in the front panel display to see how the source is being processed.

- **AUTO SURROUND** – See *Auto playback* on page 28.
- **DIRECT** – Sources are heard according to the settings made in the Surround Setup (speaker setting, channel level, speaker distance, acoustic calibration EQ, and X-curve), as well as with dual mono, the input attenuator, and any sound delay and hi-bit/hi-sampling settings. You will hear sources according to the number of channels in the signal.
- **PURE DIRECT** – Analog and PCM sources are heard without any digital processing.[1] No sound is output from the Second Zone in this mode.

Selecting MCACC presets

- Default setting: **MEMORY 1**

If you have calibrated your system for different listening positions[2], you can switch between settings to suit the kind of source you're listening to and where you're sitting (for example, watching movies from a sofa, or playing a video game close to the TV).



- **While listening to a source, press MCACC (MCACC POSITION).**

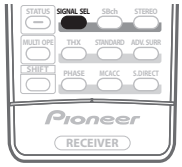
Press repeatedly to select one of the six MCACC presets[3] or to switch calibration off. See *Data Management* on page 43 to check and manage your current settings.

Note

1 There are cases where a brief noise is heard before playback of sources other than PCM. Please select **AUTO SURROUND** or **DIRECT** if this is a problem.
2 Different presets might also have separate calibration settings for the same listening position, depending on how you're using your system. These presets can be set in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35, either of which you should have already completed.
3 You can't use these settings when **MULTI CH IN** is switched on, and they has no effect when headphones are connected.

Choosing the input signal

You need to hook up a component to both analog and digital inputs on the receiver to select between input signals.[1]



- **Press SIGNAL SEL (SIGNAL SELECT) to select the input signal corresponding to the source component.**

Each press cycles through the options as follows:

- **AUTO** – This is the default setting. The receiver selects the first available signal in the following order: i.LINK; **HDMI**; **DIGITAL**; **ANALOG**.
- **ANALOG** – Selects an analog signal.
- **DIGITAL** – Selects an optical or coaxial digital signal.
- **HDMI** – Selects an HDMI signal.[2]
- i.LINK – Selects an i.LINK signal (VSX-AX4ASi only).
- **PCM** – Only PCM signals are output.[3] The receiver selects the first available signal in the following order: i.LINK; **HDMI**; **DIGITAL**.

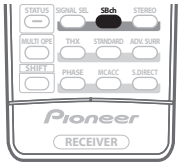
When set to **DIGITAL** or **AUTO**, **DIGITAL** lights with Dolby Digital decoding, **DTS** lights with DTS decoding, and **WMA9 Pro** lights to indicate decoding of a WMA9 Pro signal.

Using surround back channel processing

- Default setting: **SBch ON**

You can have the receiver automatically use 6.1 or 7.1 decoding for 6.1 encoded sources (for example, Dolby Digital EX or DTS-ES), or you can choose to always use 6.1 or 7.1 decoding (for example, with 5.1 encoded material). With 5.1 encoded sources, a surround back channel will be generated, but the material may sound better in the 5.1 format for which it was originally encoded (in which case, you can simply switch surround back channel processing off).

The table below indicates when you will hear the surround back channel when playing various kinds of sources. (●=Sound plays through surround back speaker(s))



- **Press SBch (SBch PROCESSING) repeatedly to cycle the surround back channel options.**

Each press cycles through the options as follows:

- **SBch ON** – 6.1 or 7.1 decoding is always used (for example, a surround back channel will be generated for 5.1 encoded material)
- **SBch AUTO** – Automatically switches to 6.1 or 7.1 decoding for 6.1 encoded sources (for example, Dolby Digital EX or DTS-ES)
- **SBch OFF** – Maximum 5.1 playback

Using the Virtual Surround Back mode

When you're not using surround back speakers, selecting this mode allows you to hear a virtual surround back channel through your surround speakers. You can choose to listen to sources with no surround back channel information, or if the material sounds better in the format (for example, 5.1) for which it was originally encoded, you can have the receiver only apply this effect to 6.1 encoded sources like Dolby Digital EX or DTS-ES.[4]

The table indicates when you will hear the virtual surround back channel. (●=Virtual surround back channel is active)

- **Press SBch (SBch PROCESSING) repeatedly to cycle the virtual surround back channel options.**

Each press cycles through the options as follows:

- **VirtualSB ON** – Virtual Surround Back is always used (for example, on 5.1 encoded material)
- **VirtualSB AUTO** – Virtual Surround Back is automatically applied to 6.1 encoded sources (for example, Dolby Digital EX or DTS-ES)

Note

1 • This receiver can only play back Dolby Digital, PCM (32 kHz to 96 kHz), DTS (including DTS 96 kHz/24 bit) and WMA9 Pro digital signal formats. With other digital signal formats, set to **ANALOG** (the **MULTI CH IN**, **TUNER**, **PHONO** and **iPod** input functions are all fixed to **ANALOG**).
• You may get digital noise when a LD or CD player compatible with DTS is playing an analog signal. To prevent noise, make the proper digital connections (page 15) and set the signal input to **DIGITAL**.
• Some DVD players don't output DTS signals. For more details, refer to the instruction manual supplied with your DVD player.
• Even when i.LINK is selected and the i.LINK indicator lights, you won't hear any sound if the output settings of your i.LINK device are off.
• The input signal for unassigned i.LINK-equipped components is fixed to i.LINK. See *Checking the i.LINK inputs* on page 52.

2 When the **HDMI** option in *Setting the AV options* on page 66 is set to **THROUGH**, the sound will be heard through your TV, not from this receiver.

3 • This is useful if you find there is a slight delay before **AUTO** recognizes the PCM signal on a CD, for instance.
• When **PCM** is selected, noise may be output during playback of non-PCM sources. Please select another input signal if this is a problem.

4 • You can't use the Virtual Surround Back mode with headphones, or with the **THX**, **STEREO** or Stream Direct modes.
• You can only use the Virtual Surround Back mode if the surround speakers are on and the **Surr Back** setting is set to **NO** in the *Speaker Setting* on page 45.
• The Virtual Surround Back mode cannot be applied to sources that do not have surround channel information.

- **VirtualSB OFF** – Virtual Surround Back mode is switched off

Type of source	SBch Processing / Virtual SB mode	Standard / THX				Advanced surround
		Multichannel sources	Stereo sources			
			DD Pro Logic II x	DD Pro Logic	Neo:6	
Dolby Digital EX/DTS-ES encoded multichannel sources with 6.1ch surround	ON	●				●
	AUTO	●				●
Dolby Digital/DTS/WMA9 Pro encoded, DVD-Audio and SACD[a] multichannel sources	ON	●				●
	AUTO					●
Dolby Digital/DTS/PCM/WMA9 Pro encoded, DVD-Audio and SACD[a] stereo sources	ON		●	●[b]	●	●
	AUTO		●[c]		●[c]	●
Analog 2-channel (stereo) sources	ON		●	●[b]	●	●
	AUTO		●[c]		●	●

a. VSX-AX4ASi only.
b. Only applicable when using the Virtual Surround Back mode.
c. Not applicable when using the Virtual Surround Back mode.

Using the Sound Retriever

When audio data is removed during the WMA/MP3/MPEG-4 AAC compression process, sound quality often suffers from an uneven sound image. The Sound Retriever feature employs new DSP technology that helps bring CD quality sound back to compressed 2-channel audio by restoring sound pressure and smoothing jagged artifacts left over after compression.

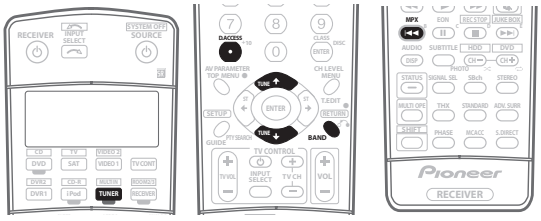


- **Press RECEIVER then press S. RETRIEVER (SOUND RETRIEVER) to switch the sound retriever on or off.**

Chapter 6:
Using the tuner

Listening to the radio

The following steps show you how to tune in to FM and AM radio broadcasts using the automatic (search) and manual (step) tuning functions. If you already know the frequency of the station you want, see *Tuning directly to a station* below. Once you are tuned to a station you can memorize the frequency for recall later—see *Saving station presets* on page 33 for more on how to do this.



1 Press the TUNER button to select the tuner.

2 Use the BAND button to change the band (FM or AM), if necessary.
Each press switches the band between FM and AM.

3 Tune to a station.
There are three ways to do this:

Automatic tuning
To search for stations in the currently selected band, press and hold **TUNE** ⬆/⬇ for about a second. The receiver will start searching for the next station, stopping when it has found one. Repeat to search for other stations.

Manual tuning
To change the frequency one step at a time, press **TUNE** ⬆/⬇.

High speed tuning
Press and hold **TUNE** ⬆/⬇ for high speed tuning. Release the button at the frequency you want.

Improving FM stereo sound

If the **TUNED** or **STEREO** indicators don't light when tuning to an FM station because the signal is weak, press the **MPX** button to switch the receiver into mono reception mode. This should improve the sound quality and allow you to enjoy the broadcast.

Tuning directly to a station

Sometimes, you'll already know the frequency of the station you want to listen to. In this case, you can simply enter the frequency directly using the number buttons on the remote control.

1 Press the TUNER button to select the tuner.

2 Use the BAND button to change the band (FM or AM), if necessary.
Each press switches the band between FM and AM.

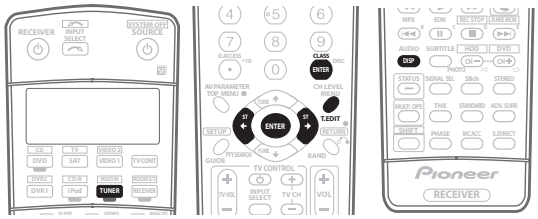
3 Press D.ACCESS (Direct Access).

4 Use the number buttons to enter the frequency of the radio station.
For example, to tune to **106.00** (FM), press **1**, **0**, **6**, **0**, **0**.

If you make a mistake halfway through, press **D.ACCESS** twice to cancel the frequency and start over.

Saving station presets

If you often listen to a particular radio station, it's convenient to have the receiver store the frequency for easy recall whenever you want to listen to that station. This saves the effort of manually tuning in each time. This receiver can memorize up to 30 stations, stored in three banks, or classes, (A, B and C) of 10 stations each. When saving an FM frequency, the **MPX** setting (see page 33) is also stored.



1 Tune to a station you want to memorize.
See *Listening to the radio* on page 33 for more on this.

2 Press T.EDIT (TUNER EDIT).
The display shows **STATION MEMORY**, then a blinking memory class.

3 Press CLASS to select one of the three classes then press ST ⬅/➡ to select the station preset you want.
You can also use the number buttons to select a station preset.

4 Press ENTER.
After pressing **ENTER**, the preset class and number stop blinking and the receiver stores the station.

Naming station presets

For easier identification, you can name your station presets.

1 Choose the station preset you want to name.
See *Listening to station presets* below for how to do this.

2 Press T.EDIT (TUNER EDIT).
The display shows **STATION NAME**, then a blinking cursor at the first character position.

3 Input the name you want.
Choose from the following characters for a name up to four characters long.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

0123456789

!"#$%&'()*+,-./:;<=>?@[\]^_{|}~ [space]

- Use the **ST** ⬅/➡ buttons (remote) to select characters.
- Press **ENTER** to confirm a character. If no character is input, a space is input.
- The name is stored when **ENTER** is pressed after choosing the fourth character.

Tip

- To erase a station name, simply repeat steps 1-3 and input four spaces instead of a name.
- Once you have named a station preset, you can press **DISP** when listening to a station to switch the display between name and frequency.

Listening to station presets

You will need to have some presets stored to do this. See *Saving station presets* above if you haven't done this already.

1 Press TUNER to select the tuner.

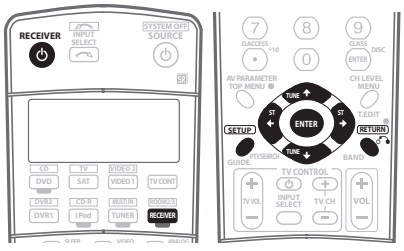
2 Press CLASS to select the class in which the station is stored.
Press repeatedly to cycle through classes A, B and C.

3 Press ST ⬅/➡ to select the station preset you want.
- You can also use the number buttons on the remote control to recall the station preset.

Chapter 7:
The System Setup menu

Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu

The following section shows you how to make detailed settings to specify how you're using the receiver (for example, if you want to set up two speaker systems in separate rooms), and also explains how to fine-tune individual speaker system settings to your liking.



1 Switch on the receiver and your TV.

Use the ⏻ **RECEIVER** button to switch on.[1]

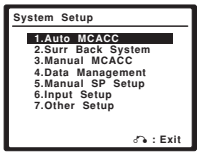
- If headphones are connected to the receiver, disconnect them.

2 Press RECEIVER on the remote control, then press the SETUP button.[2]

An on-screen display (OSD) appears on your TV. Use the ⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ buttons and **ENTER** to navigate through the screens and select menu items. Press **RETURN** to confirm and exit the current menu.

- Press **SETUP** at any time to exit the System Setup menu.

3 Select the setting you want to adjust.



- **Auto MCACC** – See *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 for a quick and effective automatic surround setup. See *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* below for a more detailed setup.
- **Surr Back System** – Specify how you are using your surround back speakers (see *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37).
- **Manual MCACC** – Fine tune your speaker settings and customize the Acoustic Calibration EQ (see *Manual MCACC setup* on page 38).
- **Data Management** – Check your MCACC presets and manage them through copying, renaming or deleting (see *Data Management* on page 43).
- **Manual SP Setup** – Specify the size, number, distance and overall balance of the speakers you've connected (see *Manual speaker setup* on page 44).
- **Input Setup** – Specify what you've connected to the digital and component video inputs (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).
- **Other Setup** – Make customized settings to reflect how you are using the receiver (see *The Other Setup menu* on page 64).

Automatic MCACC (Expert)

If your setup requires more detailed settings than those provided in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7, you can customize your setup options below. You can calibrate your system differently for up to six different MCACC presets[3], which are useful if you have different listening positions depending on the type of source (for example, watching movies from a sofa, or playing a video game close to the TV).[4]

Important

- Make sure the microphone and speakers are not moved during the Auto MCACC Setup.
- Using the Auto MCACC Setup will overwrite any existing settings for the MCACC preset you select.[5]
- The screen saver will automatically appear after three minutes of inactivity.

Caution

- The test tones used in the Auto MCACC Setup are output at high volume.

Note

1 Make sure not to switch off the power when using the System Setup menu.

2 • Note that when editing items in the **Manual MCACC** menu, you will need to first specify the MCACC preset you want to adjust by pressing **MCACC** before pressing **SETUP**.
• You can't use the System Setup menu when the iPod input source is selected (in either the main or sub room).

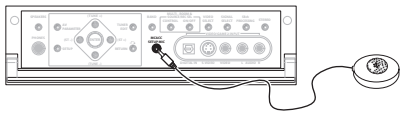
3 These are stored in memory and referred to as **MEMORY1**–**6** (or **M1**–**6**) until you rename them in *Data Management* on page 43.

4 You may also want to have separate calibration settings for the same listening position, depending on how you're using your system.

5 Except in cases where you are only adjusting one parameter (i.e. channel level) from the **Option** setup screen (step 3).

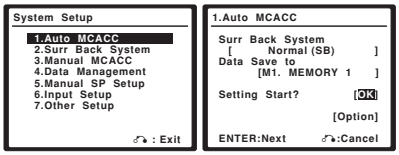
1 Connect the microphone to the MCACC SETUP MIC jack on the front panel.

Make sure there are no obstacles between the speakers and the microphone.



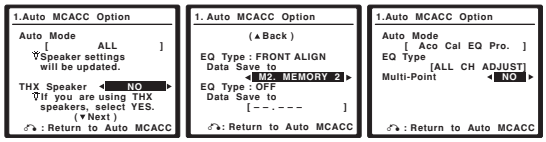
If you have a tripod, use it to place the microphone so that it's about ear level at your normal listening position. Otherwise, place the microphone at ear level using a table or a chair.

2 Select 'Auto MCACC' from the System Setup menu then press ENTER.

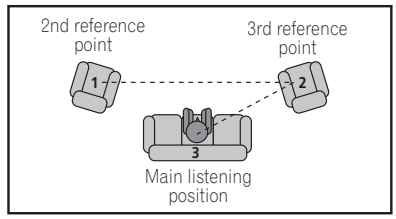


3 Make sure 'Normal (SB)' is selected,[1] select an MCACC preset[2] then select OK.

For a fully customized Auto MCACC setup, select **Option** and set the following parameters:



- **Auto Mode** – The default is **ALL** (recommended), but you can limit the system calibration to only one setting (to save time) if you want.[3] The available options are **ALL**, **ALL (Keep SPsetting)**,[4] **Speaker Setting**, **Channel Level**, **Speaker Distance**, **Acoustic Cal EQ**, and **Aco Cal EQ Pro.**
- **THX Speaker** *(only available when the Auto Mode above is* **ALL** or **Speaker Setting***)* – Select **YES** if you are using THX speakers (set all speakers to **SMALL**), otherwise leave it set to **NO**.
- **EQ Type** *(only available when the Auto Mode above is* **Acoustic Cal EQ** *or* **Aco Cal EQ Pro.***)* – This determines how the frequency balance is adjusted. **ALL CH ADJUST** (default) is a 'flat' setting where all the speakers are set individually so no special weighting is given to any one channel. Optionally,[5] **FRONT ALIGN** sets all speakers in accordance with the front speaker settings (no equalization is applied to the front left and right channels), and **OFF** (only available when **ALL** is selected) allows you to save calibration settings (such as speaker distance and channel level) with no EQ or standing wave adjustment to your selected preset.
- **Multi-Point** *(only available when the Auto Mode above is* **Acoustic Cal EQ** *or* **Aco Cal EQ Pro.***)* – In addition to measurements at the listening position, you can use two more reference points for which test tones will be analyzed for standing waves. This is useful if you want to get a balanced 'flat' calibration for several seating positions in your listening area.[6] Place the microphone at the reference point indicated on-screen and note *the last microphone placement will be at your main listening position:*



When you're finished settings the options, press **RETURN** to go back to the Auto MCACC main setup.

4 Follow the instructions on-screen.

- Make sure the microphone is connected.
- If you're using a subwoofer, it is automatically detected every time you switch on the system. Make sure it is on and the volume is turned up.
- See *Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup* on page 9 for notes regarding high background noise levels and other possible interference.

5 Wait for the Auto MCACC Setup to finish outputting test tones.

A progress report is displayed on-screen while the receiver outputs test tones to determine the speakers present in your setup. Try to be as quiet as possible while it's doing this.

- Do not adjust the volume during the test tones. This may result in incorrect speaker settings.

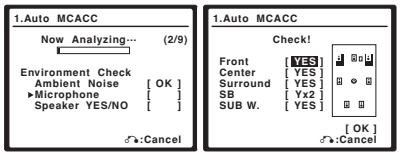
Note

1 If you are planning on bi-amping your front speakers, or setting up a separate speaker system in another room, read through *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 and make sure to connect your speakers as necessary before continuing to step 4.
2 The six MCACC presets are used for storing surround sound settings for different listening positions. Simply choose an unused preset for now (you can rename it later in *Data Management* on page 43).
3 The **Aco Cal EQ Pro.** measurement is also taken when **ALL** is selected. See *Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 40 for more on this.
4 The **ALL (Keep SPsetting)** option allows you to calibrate your system while leaving your current speaker setting (page 45) unchanged.
5 If you selected **ALL** as your **Auto Mode** setting, you can specify the MCACC preset where you want to save the **FRONT ALIGN** and/or **OFF** settings.
6 Switch the **Multi-Point** setting **OFF** if you only use one listening position.

- With error messages (such as **Ambient Noise** or **Microphone Check**) select **RETRY** after checking for ambient noise (see *Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup* on page 9) and verifying the mic connection. If there doesn't seem to be a problem, you can simply select **OK** and continue.

6 If necessary, confirm the speaker configuration in the OSD.[1]

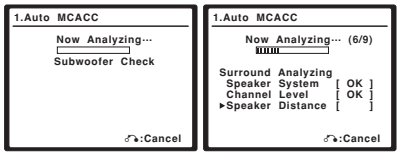
The configuration shown on-screen should reflect the actual speakers you have.



If you see an error message (**ERR**) in the right side column (or the speaker configuration displayed isn't correct), there may be a problem with the speaker connection. If selecting **RETRY** doesn't work, turn off the power and check the speaker connections. If there doesn't seem to be a problem, you can simply use ⬆/⬇ to select the speaker and ⬅/➡ to change the setting (and number for surround back) and continue.

7 Make sure 'OK' is selected, then press ENTER.

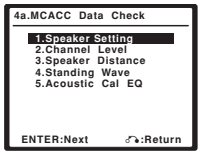
A progress report is displayed on-screen while the receiver outputs more test tones to determine the optimum receiver settings for channel level, speaker distance, and Acoustic Calibration EQ.



Again, try to be as quiet as possible while this is happening. It may take 2–6 minutes.

- If you selected a **Multi-Point** setup (in step 3), you will be asked to place the mic at the 2nd and 3rd reference points before finally placing it at your main listening position.

8 The Auto MCACC Setup has finished! Press RETURN to go back to the System Setup menu.



The settings made in the Auto MCACC Setup should give you excellent surround sound from your system, but it is also possible to adjust these settings manually using the System Setup menu (starting on page 35).[2]

You can also choose to view the settings by selecting individual parameters from the **MCACC Data Check** screen:

- **Speaker Setting** – The size and number of speakers you've connected (see page 45 for more on this)
- **Channel Level** – The overall balance of your speaker system (see page 45 for more on this)
- **Speaker Distance** – The distance of your speakers from the listening position (see page 46 for more on this)[3]
- **Standing Wave** – Filter settings to control lower 'boomy' frequencies (see page 39 for more on this)
- **Acoustic Cal EQ** – Adjustments to the frequency balance of your speaker system based on the acoustic characteristics of your room (see page 40 for more on this)

Press **ENTER** after you have finished checking each screen. When you're finished, select **RETURN** to go back to the System Setup menu.

Surround back speaker setting

- Default setting: **Normal (SB)**

There are several ways you can use the surround back speaker channels with this system. In addition to a normal home theater setup where they are used for the surround back speakers, they can be used for bi-amping the front speakers or as an independent speaker system in another room.

Note

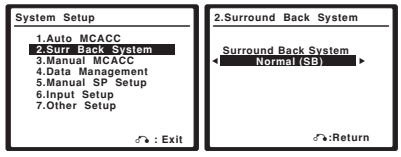
1 This screen is only shown if you selected **ALL** or **Speaker Setting** in **Auto Mode** from the Auto MCACC Option menu.

2 • Depending on the characteristics of your room, sometimes identical speakers with cone sizes of around 12 cm will end up with different size settings. You can correct the setting manually using the *Manual speaker setup* on page 44.

• The subwoofer distance setting may be farther than the actual distance from the listening position. This setting should be accurate (taking delay and room characteristics into account) and generally does not need to be changed.

3 Since the distance measurements have been set according to the sound characteristics of your speakers, there are cases where (for optimal surround sound) the actual distance may differ from the speaker distance setting.

1 Select 'Surr Back System' from the System Setup menu.
See *Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu* above if you're not already at this screen.



2 Select the surround back speaker setting.
- **Normal (SB)** – Select for normal home theater use with surround back speakers in your main (speaker system A) setup.
- **2nd Zone** – Select to use the (surround back) B speaker terminals to listen to stereo playback in another room (see *Second Zone speaker B setup* on page 55).
- **Front Bi-Amp** – Select this setting if you're bi-amping your front speakers (see *Bi-amping your front speakers* on page 55).
- **Multi Room & Source** – Select to use the (surround back) B speaker terminals for an independent system in another room (see *Multi-room listening* on page 57).

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the System Setup menu.

Manual MCACC setup

You can use the settings in the Manual MCACC setup menu to make detailed adjustments when you're more familiar with the system. Before making these settings, you should have already completed *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7.

You only need to make these settings once (unless you change the placement of your current speaker system or add new speakers).

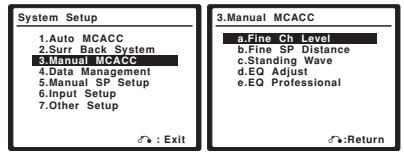
Caution

- The test tones used in the System Setup are output at high volume.

Important

- You will need to first specify the MCACC preset you want to adjust by pressing **MCACC** before pressing **SETUP** (step 2 in *Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu* on page 35).
- For some of the settings below, you'll have to connect the setup microphone to the front panel and place it about ear level at your normal listening position. See *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 if you're unsure how to do this. Also see *Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup* on page 9 for notes regarding high background noise levels and other possible interference.
- If you're using a subwoofer, switch it on and turn up the volume to the middle position.

1 Select 'Manual MCACC' from the System Setup menu.
See *Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu* on page 35 if you're not already at this screen.



2 Select the setting you want to adjust.
If you're doing this for the first time, you might want to make these settings in order.
- **Fine Ch Level** – Make fine adjustments to the overall balance of your speaker system (see *Fine Channel Level* below).
- **Fine SP Distance** – Make precise delay settings for your speaker system (see *Fine Speaker Distance* on page 39).
- **Standing Wave** – Control overly resonant low frequencies in your listening room (see *Standing Wave* on page 39).

The last two settings are specifically for customizing the parameters explained in *Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 40:
- **EQ Adjust** – Manually adjust the frequency balance of your speaker system while listening to test tones (see *Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 40).
- **EQ Professional** – Calibrate your system based on the direct sound coming from the speakers and make detailed settings according to your room's reverb characteristics (see *Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 40).

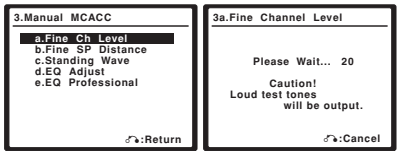
Fine Channel Level

- Default setting: **0dB** (all channels)

You can achieve better surround sound by properly adjusting the overall balance of your speaker system. The following setting can help you make detailed adjustments that you may not achieve using the *Manual speaker setup* on page 44.

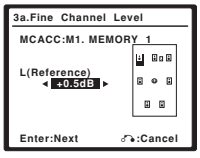
1 Select 'Fine Ch Level' from the Manual MCACC setup menu.

The volume increases to the **0dB** reference level.



2 Adjust the level of the left channel.

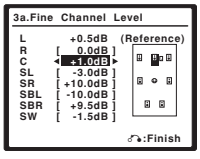
This will be the reference speaker level, so you may want to keep the level around **0dB** so that you'll have plenty of room to adjust the other speaker levels.



- After pressing **ENTER**, test tones will be output.

3 Select each channel in turn and adjust the levels (+/– 10dB) as necessary.

Use ⬅/➡ to adjust the volume of the speaker you selected to match the reference speaker. When it sounds like both tones are the same volume, press ⬇ to confirm and continue to the next channel.



- For comparison purposes, the reference speaker will change depending on which speaker you select.
- If you want to go back and adjust a channel, simply use ⬆/⬇ to select it.

4 When you're finished, press RETURN.

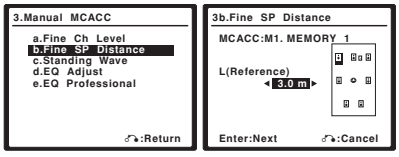
You will return to the Manual MCACC setup menu.

Fine Speaker Distance

- Default setting: **3.0 m** (all speakers)

For proper sound depth and separation with your system, it is necessary to add a slight bit of delay to some speakers so that all sounds will arrive at the listening position at the same time. The following setting can help you make detailed adjustments that you may not achieve using the *Manual speaker setup* on page 44.

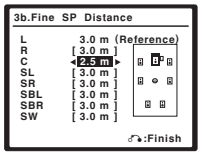
1 Select 'Fine SP Distance' from the Manual MCACC setup menu.



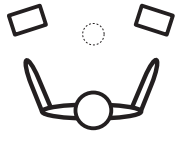
2 Adjust the distance of the left channel from the listening position.

3 Select each channel in turn and adjust the distance as necessary.

Use ⬅/➡ to adjust the delay of the speaker you selected to match the reference speaker. The delay is measured in terms of speaker distance from **0.1** to **9.0** meters.



Listen to the reference speaker and use it to measure the target channel. From the listening position, face the two speakers with your arms outstretched pointing at each speaker. Try to make the two tones sound as if they are arriving simultaneously at a position slightly in front of you and between your arm span.[1]



When it sounds like the delay settings are matched up, press ⬇ to confirm and continue to the next channel.

- For comparison purposes, the reference speaker will change depending on which speaker you select.
- If you want to go back and adjust a channel, simply use ⬆/⬇ to select it.

4 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual MCACC setup menu.

Standing Wave

- Default setting: **ON**

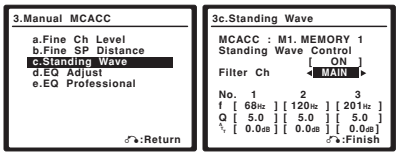
Acoustic standing waves occur when, under certain conditions, sound waves from your speaker system resonate mutually with sound waves reflected off the walls in your listening area. This can have a negative effect on the overall sound, especially at certain lower

Note

1 • If you can't seem to achieve this by adjusting the distance setting, you may need to change the angle of your speakers very slightly.
• For better audibility, the subwoofer emits a continuous test tone (oscillating pulses are heard from your other speakers). Note that it may be difficult to compare this tone with the other speakers in your setup (depending on the low frequency response of the reference speaker).

frequencies. Depending on speaker placement, your listening position, and ultimately the shape of your room, it results in an overly resonant ('boomy') sound. The Standing Wave Control uses filters to reduce the effect of overly resonant sounds in your listening area. During playback of a source, you can customize the filters used for Standing Wave Control for each of your MCACC presets.[1]

1 Select 'Standing Wave' from the Manual MCACC setup menu.



2 Select 'ON' (if it is not already selected) then adjust the parameters for the Standing Wave Control.

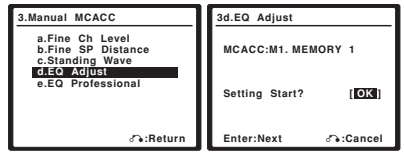
- **Filter Ch** – Select the channel to which you will apply the filter(s): **Main** (all except center channel and subwoofer), **Center** or **SUB W.** (subwoofer).
- **TRIM** *(only available when the filter channel above is* **SUB W.***)* – Adjust the subwoofer channel level (to compensate for the difference in output post-filter).
- **f** / **Q** / **ATT** – These are the filter parameters where **f** represents the frequency you will be targeting and **Q** is the bandwidth (the higher the Q, the narrower the bandwidth, or range) of the attenuation (**ATT**, the amount of reduction to the targeted frequency).

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the Manual MCACC setup menu.

Acoustic Calibration EQ

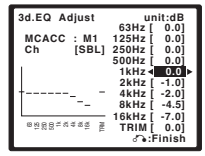
Acoustic Calibration Equalization is a kind of room equalizer for your speakers (excluding the subwoofer). It works by measuring the acoustic characteristics of your room and neutralizing the ambient characteristics that can color the original source material (providing a 'flat' equalization setting). If you're not satisfied with the adjustment provided in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35, you can also adjust these settings manually to get a frequency balance that suits your tastes.

1 Select 'EQ Adjust' from the Manual MCACC setup menu.



2 Confirm that the MCACC preset shown in the display is the one you want to adjust, then select OK.

3 Select the channel(s) you want and adjust to your liking.



Use the ⬅/➡ buttons to select the channel.

Use the ⬆/⬇ buttons to select the frequency and ⬅/➡ to boost or cut the EQ. When you're finished, go back to the top of the screen and use the ⬅/➡ buttons to select the next channel.

- The **OVER!** indicator shows in the display if the frequency adjustment is too drastic and might distort. If this happens, bring the level down until **OVER!** disappears from the display.

Tip

- Changing the frequency curve of one channel too drastically will affect the overall balance. If the speaker balance seems uneven, you can raise or lower channel levels using test tones with the **TRIM** feature. Use ⬆/⬇ to select **TRIM** then use ⬅/➡ to raise or lower the channel level for the current speaker.

4 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the Manual MCACC setup menu.

Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ

This setup minimizes the unwanted effects of room reverberation by allowing you to calibrate your system based on the direct sound coming from the speakers. It can also provide you with a graphical output of the frequency response of your room.[2]

Note

1 • Since they will be overwritten, you may want to save the standing wave settings made with the Auto MCACC Setup to another MCACC preset.
• Standing Wave control filter settings cannot be changed during playback of sources using the HDMI connection.

2 This system allows you to customize your system calibration with the help of a graphical output that can be displayed on-screen, or using a computer (with software available from Pioneer—see *Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output* on page 62 for more on this).

How to use Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ

If you find that lower frequencies seem overly reverberant in your listening room (i.e. it sounds `boomy'), or that different channels seem to exhibit different reverb characteristics, select **Aco Cal EQ Pro.** (or **ALL**) for the **Auto Mode** setting in *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35 to calibrate the room automatically. This should provide a balanced calibration that suits the characteristics of your listening room.

If you still aren't satisfied with the results, the manual Advanced EQ setup (below) provides a more customized calibration of your system using the direct sound of the speakers. This is done with the help of a graphical output that can be displayed on-screen, or using a computer (with software available from Pioneer — see *Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output* on page 62).

How to interpret the graphical output

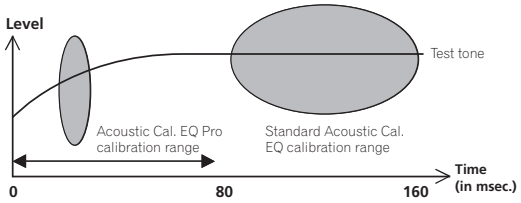
The graph shows decibels on the vertical axis and time (in milliseconds) on the horizontal axis. A straight line indicates a flat-response room (no reverb), whereas a sloping line indicates the presence of reverberation when outputting test tones. The sloping line will eventually flatten out when the reverberant sound stabilizes (this usually takes about 100 ms or so).

By analyzing the graph, you should be able to see how your room is responding to certain frequencies. Differences in channel level and speaker distance are taken into account automatically (compensation is provided for comparison purposes), and the frequency measurements can be examined both with and without the equalization performed by this receiver.[1]

Setting Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ according to your room characteristics

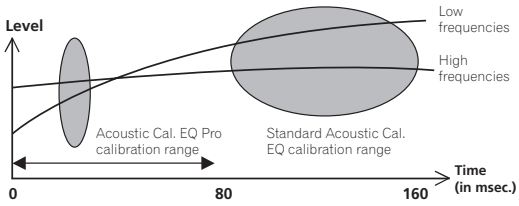
Using the manual setup, you can set the time period at which the frequency response is analyzed, pinpointing the time that is best for system calibration with your particular room characteristics.

The graph below shows the difference between standard acoustic calibration and professional calibration (the gray circles represent the point at which the microphone captures the sound for frequency analysis).

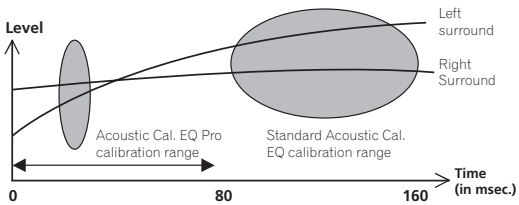


As soon as audio is output from your speaker system, it is influenced by room characteristics, such as walls, furniture, and the dimensions of the room. The sooner the frequency analysis, the less it is influenced by the room. We recommend an earlier time setting of **20~40ms** to compensate for two major factors that will influence the sound of most rooms:

- **Reverberance of high vs. low frequencies** – Depending on your room, you may find that lower frequencies seem overly reverberant compared to higher frequencies (i.e. your room sounds 'boomy'). This may result in a skewed frequency analysis if the measurement is done too late.



- **Reverb characteristics for different channels** – Reverb characteristics can be somewhat different for each channel. Since this difference increases as the sound is influenced by the various room characteristics, it is often better to capture a frequency analysis early on for smoother mixing of channel frequencies/sounds.



If your room isn't affected by the factors above, it is often not necessary to make a **20~40ms** setting. Later time settings may provide a more detailed sound experience with your speaker system. It is best to try and see what works best for your particular room.

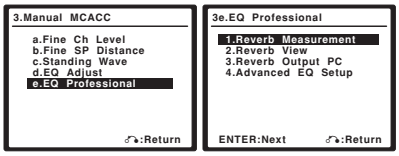
Note that changing the room (for example, moving furniture or paintings) will affect the calibration results. In such cases, you should recalibrate your system.

Note

1 Note that due to an effect known as 'group delay', lower frequencies will take longer to be generated than higher frequencies (this is most obvious when comparing the frequencies at 0 ms). This initial slope is not a problem (i.e. excessive reverb) with your listening room.

Using Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ

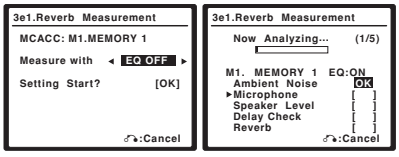
1 Select 'EQ Professional' then press ENTER.



2 Select an option and press ENTER.

- **Reverb Measurement** – Use this to measure the reverb characteristics of your room (for graphical output using a PC, see *Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output* on page 62 to connect an RS-232C cable before selecting this option).
- **Reverb View** – You can check the reverb measurements made for specified frequency ranges in each channel.
- **Reverb Output PC** – See *Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output* on page 62 for more on this.
- **Advanced EQ Setup** – Use this to select the time period that will be used for frequency adjustment and calibration, based on the reverb measurement of your listening area. Note that customizing system calibration using this setup will alter the settings you made in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35 and is not necessary if you're satisfied with these settings.

3 If you selected 'Reverb Measurement', select EQ ON or OFF and then OK.

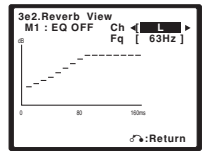


The following options determine how the reverb characteristics of your listening area are displayed in **Reverb View** and **Reverb Output PC**:

- **EQ OFF** – You will see the reverb characteristics of your listening area *without* the equalization performed by this receiver (before calibration).
- **EQ ON** – You will see the reverb characteristics of your listening area *with* the equalization performed by this receiver (after calibration).[1] Note that the EQ response may not appear entirely flat due to adjustments necessary for your listening area.

When the reverb measurement is finished, you can select **Reverb View** to see the results on-screen. See *Professional Calibration EQ graphical output* on page 80 for troubleshooting information.

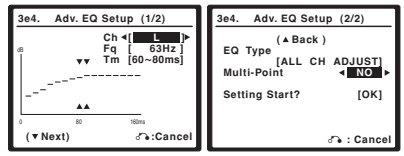
4 If you selected 'Reverb View', you can check the reverb characteristics for each channel. Press RETURN when you're done.



This appears according to the setting you chose in **Reverb Measurement** (step 3 above). Use the ⬅/➡ buttons to select the channel and the frequency you want to check. Use the ⬆/⬇ buttons to go back and forth between the two. Note that the markers on the vertical axis indicate decibels in 2 dB steps.

5 If you selected 'Advanced EQ Setup', input the time setting you want to use for calibration, then select 'Go'. Select 'Start' from the next screen.

Based on the reverb measurement above, you can choose the time period that will be used for the final frequency adjustment and calibration. Even though you can make this setting without reverb measurement, it is best to use the measurement results as a reference for your time setting. For an optimal system calibration based on the direct sound coming from the speakers, we recommend using the **20~40ms** setting.



Use the ⬅/➡ buttons to select the channel, frequency, and time setting. Use the ⬆/⬇ buttons to switch between them.

You can switch between your connected speakers (excluding the subwoofer), and display the measurements for the following frequencies: 63 Hz, 125 Hz, 250 Hz, 500 Hz, 1 kHz, 2 kHz, 4 kHz, 8 kHz and 16 kHz.

Select the setting from the following time periods (in milliseconds): **0~20ms**, **10~30ms**, **20~40ms**, **30~50ms**, **40~60ms**, **50~70ms** and **60~80ms**. This setting will be applied to all channels during calibration.

When you're finished, select **OK**. It will take about 1 to 4 minutes for the calibration to finish.

After the Acoustic Calibration Equalization is set, you are given the option to check the settings on-screen.

Note

1 The calibration corresponding to the currently selected MCACC preset will be used when **EQ ON** is selected. To use another MCACC preset, exit the System Setup menu and press **MCACC** to select it before pressing **SETUP**.

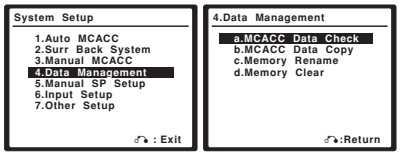
Data Management

This system allows you to store up to six MCACC presets, allowing you to calibrate your system for different listening positions (or frequency adjustments for the same listening position).[1] This is useful for alternate settings to match the kind of source you're listening to and where you're sitting (for example, watching movies from a sofa, or playing a video game close to the TV).

From this menu you can check your current settings, copy from one preset to another, name presets for easier identification and clear any ones you don't need.

1 Select 'Data Management' from the System Setup menu.

See *Making receiver settings from the System Setup menu* on page 35 if you're not already at this screen.



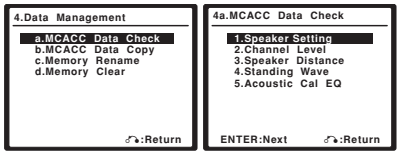
2 Select the setting you want to adjust.

- **MCACC Data Check** – Check the settings for any of your MCACC presets using the on-screen display (see *Checking MCACC preset data* below).
- **MCACC Data Copy** – Copy settings from one MCACC preset to another (see *Copying MCACC preset data* below).
- **Memory Rename** – Name your MCACC presets for easy identification (see *Renaming MCACC presets* below).
- **Memory Clear** – Clear any MCACC presets that you don't want (see *Clearing MCACC presets* below).

Checking MCACC preset data

After you have completed *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35, you can check your calibrated settings using the on-screen display.

1 Select 'MCACC Data Check' from the Data Management setup menu.

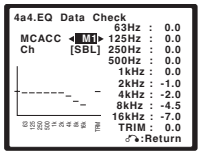


2 Select the setting you want to check.

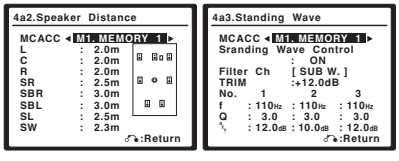
- It is useful to do this while a source is playing so you can compare the different settings.

3 Select the MCACC preset that you want to check.

Use the ⬆/⬇ buttons if necessary to switch speakers/settings.



4 Press RETURN to go back to the Data Check menu, repeating steps 2 and 3 to check other settings.



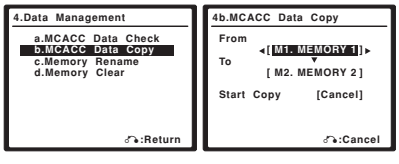
5 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Data Management setup menu.

Copying MCACC preset data

If you want to manually adjust the Acoustic Calibration EQ (see *Manual MCACC setup* above), we recommend copying your current settings[2] to an unused MCACC preset. Instead of just a flat EQ curve, this will give you a reference point from which to start.

1 Select 'MCACC Data Copy' from the Data Management setup menu.



2 Select the MCACC preset you'll be copying the settings 'From' then specify where you want to copy them ('To').

Make sure you don't overwrite an MCACC preset you're currently using (this can't be undone).

3 Select 'Copy' to confirm and copy the settings.

Copy Complete! shows in the OSD to confirm the MCACC preset has been copied, then you automatically return to the Data Management setup menu.

Note

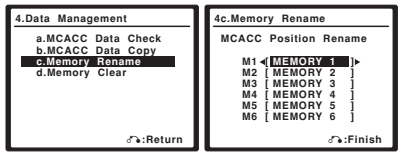
1 This can be done in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35, either of which you should have already completed.

2 The settings made in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 or *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35.

Renaming MCACC presets

If you have several different MCACC presets that you're using, you may want to rename them for easier identification.

1 Select 'Memory Rename' from the Data Management setup menu.



2 Select the MCACC preset you want to rename, then select an appropriate preset name.

Use ⬆/⬇ to select the preset, then ⬅/➡ to select a preset name.

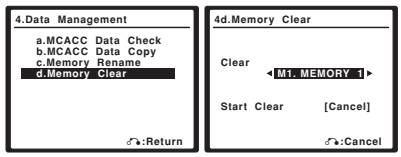
3 Repeat for as many MCACC presets as necessary, then press RETURN when you're finished.

You will return to the Data Management setup menu.

Clearing MCACC presets

If you are no longer using one of the MCACC presets stored in memory, you can choose to clear the calibration settings of that preset.

1 Select 'Memory Clear' from the Data Management setup menu.



2 Select the MCACC preset you want to clear.

Make sure you don't clear an MCACC preset you're currently using (this can't be undone).

3 Select 'Clear' to confirm and clear the preset.

Clear Complete! shows in the OSD to confirm the MCACC preset has been cleared, then you automatically return to the Data Management setup menu.

Manual speaker setup

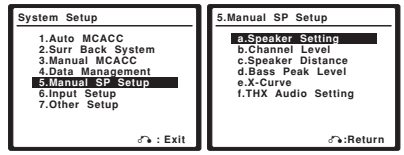
This receiver allows you to make detailed settings to optimize the surround sound performance. You only need to make these settings once (unless you change the placement of your current speaker system or add new speakers).

These settings are designed to customize your system, but if you're satisfied with the settings made in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7, it isn't necessary to make all of these settings.

Caution

- The test tones used in the System Setup are output at high volume.

1 Select 'Manual SP Setup' then press ENTER.



2 Select the setting you want to adjust.

If you are doing this for the first time, you may want to adjust these settings in order:

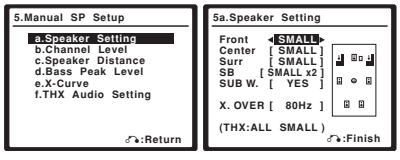
- **Speaker Setting** – Specify the size and number of speakers you've connected (see below).
- **Channel Level** – Adjust the overall balance of your speaker system (page 45).
- **Speaker Distance** – Specify the distance of your speakers from the listening position (page 46).
- **Bass Peak Level** – Prevent bass tones from distorting the sound from your speakers (page 46).
- **X-Curve** – Adjust the tonal balance of your speaker system for movie soundtracks (page 47).
- **THX Audio Setting** – Specify whether you are using a THX speaker setup (page 47).

3 Make the adjustments necessary for each setting, pressing RETURN to confirm after each screen.

Speaker Setting

Use this setting to specify your speaker configuration (size, number of speakers and crossover frequency). It is a good idea to make sure that the settings made in *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 are correct.[1] Note that this setting applies to all MCACC presets, and cannot be set independently.

1 Select 'Speaker Setting' from the Manual SP Setup menu.



2 Choose the set of speakers that you want to set then select a speaker size.

Use ⬅/➡ to select the size (and number) of each of the following speakers:[2]

- **Front** – Select **LARGE** if your front speakers reproduce bass frequencies effectively, or if you didn't connect a subwoofer. Select **SMALL** to send the bass frequencies to the subwoofer.
- **Center** – Select **LARGE** if your center speaker reproduces bass frequencies effectively, or select **SMALL** to send bass frequencies to the other speakers or subwoofer. If you didn't connect a center speaker, choose **NO** (the center channel is sent to the front speakers).
- **Surround** – Select **LARGE** if your surround speakers reproduce bass frequencies effectively. Select **SMALL** to send bass frequencies to the other speakers or subwoofer. If you didn't connect surround speakers choose **NO** (the sound of the surround channels is sent to the front speakers or a subwoofer).
- **Surr Back** – Select the number of surround back speakers you have (one, two or none).[3] Select **LARGE** if your surround back speakers reproduce bass frequencies effectively. Select **SMALL** to send bass frequencies to the other speakers or subwoofer. If you didn't connect surround back speakers choose **NO**.
- **Subwoofer** – LFE signals and bass frequencies of channels set to **SMALL** are output from the subwoofer when **YES** is selected. Choose the **PLUS** setting if you want the subwoofer to output bass sound continuously or you want deeper bass (the bass frequencies that would normally come out the front and center speakers are also routed to the subwoofer).[4] If you did not connect a subwoofer choose **NO** (the bass frequencies are output from other speakers).

3 Select 'X. OVER' and set the crossover frequency.[5]

Frequencies below this point will be sent to the subwoofer (or **LARGE** speakers).

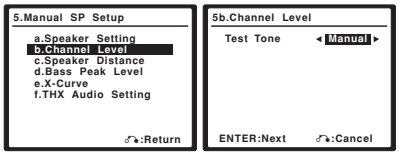
4 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual SP Setup menu.

Channel Level

Using the channel level settings, you can adjust the overall balance of your speaker system, an important factor when setting up a home theater system.

1 Select 'Channel Level' from the Manual SP Setup menu.

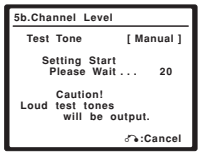


2 Select a setup option.

- **Manual** – Move the test tone manually from speaker to speaker and adjust individual channel levels.
- **Auto** – Adjust channel levels as the test tone moves from speaker to speaker automatically.

3 Confirm your selected setup option.

The test tones will start after you press **ENTER**.



Note

1 If you're using a THX speaker setup, set all speakers to **SMALL**.

2 If you select **SMALL** for the front speakers the subwoofer will automatically be fixed to **YES**. Also, the center and surround speakers can't be set to **LARGE** if the front speakers are set to **SMALL**. In this case, all bass frequencies are sent to the subwoofer.

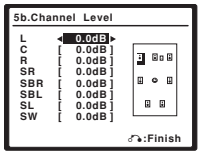
3 • If you selected **2nd Zone** or **Front Bi-Amp** (in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37) you can't adjust the surround back settings.
• If the surround speakers are set to **NO**, the surround back speakers will automatically be set to **NO**.
• If you select one surround back speaker only, make sure that speaker is hooked up to the left surround back terminal.

4 If you have a subwoofer and like lots of bass, it may seem logical to select **LARGE** for your front speakers and **PLUS** for the subwoofer. This may not, however, yield the best bass results. Depending on the speaker placement of your room you may actually experience a decrease in the amount of bass due low frequency cancellations. In this case, try changing the position or direction of speakers. If you can't get good results, listen to the bass response with it set to **PLUS** and **YES** or the front speakers set to **LARGE** and **SMALL** alternatively and let your ears judge which sounds best. If you're having problems, the easiest option is to route all the bass sounds to the subwoofer by selecting **SMALL** for the front speakers.

5 • This setting decides the cutoff between bass sounds playing back from the speakers selected as **LARGE**, or the subwoofer, and bass sounds playing back from those selected as **SMALL**. It also decides where the cutoff will be for bass sounds in the LFE channel.
• If you're using a THX speaker setup, confirm that the crossover frequency is set to **80Hz**.

4 Adjust the level of each channel using the ←/→ buttons.

If you selected **Manual**, use ↑/↓ to switch speakers. The **Auto** setup will output test tones in the order shown on-screen:



Adjust the level of each speaker as the test tone is emitted.[1]

5 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual SP Setup menu.

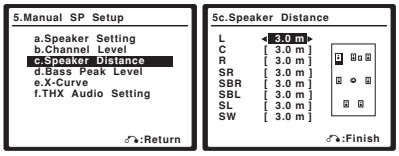
Tip

- You can change the channel levels at any time by pressing **CH LEVEL** then using ←/→ on the remote control.

Speaker Distance

For good sound depth and separation from your system, you need to specify the distance of your speakers from the listening position. The receiver can then add the proper delay needed for effective surround sound.

1 Select 'Speaker Distance' from the Manual SP Setup menu.



2 Adjust the distance of each speaker using the ←/→ buttons.

You can adjust the distance of each speaker in 0.1 meter increments.

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual SP Setup menu.

Tip

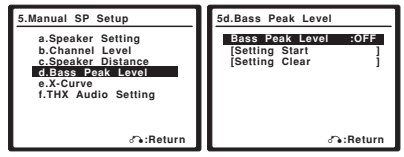
- For best surround sound, make sure the surround back speakers are the same distance from the listening position.

Bass Peak Level

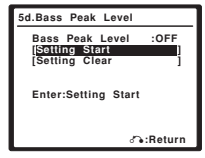
Some audio sources (for example, Dolby Digital and DTS) include ultra-low bass tones. Set the bass limiter as needed to prevent the bass from distorting the sound.

1 Select 'Bass Peak Level' from the Manual SP Setup menu.

The current setting is displayed. When **OFF** is displayed the attenuator is off (bass output is not affected).

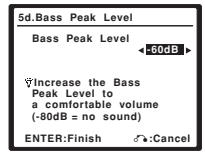


2 Select a setup option.



- **Setting Start** – The volume is set to –60 dB, a test tone plays back and you make the setting.
- **Setting Clear** – Clears any previous setting and switches limiting off.

3 If you selected 'Setting Start', use ←/→ to adjust the test tones and specify the bass peak level then press ENTER.



Set the bass peak level gradually, then press **ENTER** at the point just before the tone starts to distort.[2]

The display on the receiver shows **RESUME** while the volume returns to its original position, then you automatically return to the main Bass Peak Level menu.

4 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual SP Setup menu.

Note

1 • If you are using a Sound Pressure Level (SPL) meter, take the readings from your main listening position and adjust the level of each speaker to 75 dB SPL (C-weighting/slow reading).

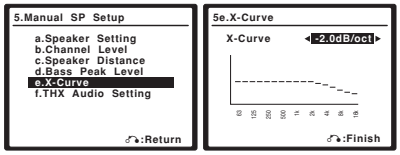
• The subwoofer test tone is output at low volumes. You may need to adjust the level after testing with an actual soundtrack.

2 If the **YES** or **PLUS** setting on the subwoofer is selected (in *Speaker Setting* on page 45), the test tone will only play back from the subwoofer. If not, the test tone will play back from the front and surround speakers set to **LARGE**.

X-Curve

Most soundtracks mixed for cinema sound too bright when played back in large rooms. The X-Curve setting acts as a kind of re-equalization for home theater listening, and restores proper tonal balance of movie soundtracks.[1]

1 Select 'X-Curve' from the Manual SP Setup menu.



2 Choose the X-Curve setting you want.

Use ⬅/➡ to adjust the setting. The X-Curve is expressed as a downwards slope in decibels per octave, starting at 2 kHz. The sound becomes less bright as the slope increases (to a maximum of **-3.0dB/oct**). Use the following guidelines to set the X-Curve according to your room size:

Room size (m^2)	≤36	≤48	≤60	≤72	≤300	≤1000
X-Curve (dB/oct)	–0.5	–1	–1.5	–2	–2.5	–3

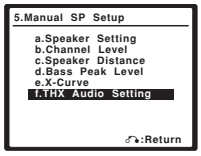
- If you select **OFF**, the frequency curve will be flat and the X-Curve has no effect.

3 Select 'Return' then press ENTER to finish.

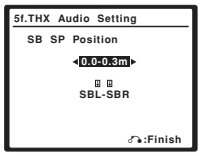
THX Audio Setting

For the most effective results when using the THX Select2 Cinema and THX MusicMode listening modes (see *Using the Home THX modes* on page 29) with the Advanced Speaker Array (ASA) system (see *About THX* on page 85), it is required that you make the setting. See *Placing the speakers* on page 18 for more on THX speaker placement.[2]

1 Select 'THX Audio Setting' from the Manual SP Setup menu.



2 Specify the distance of your surround back speakers from each other.



- **0.0 – 0.3m** – Surround speakers within 30 cm apart (best for THX surround sound).
- **> 0.3 – 1.2m** – Surround speakers between 30 cm and 1.2 m apart.
- **1.2m <** – Surround speakers more than 1.2 m apart.

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Manual SP Setup menu.

Note

1 Since the principal is the same, X-Curve isn't applied when you're using any of the Home THX modes (see *Using the Home THX modes* on page 29).
2 If you don't have surround back speakers, or just have one, you won't be able to select this setting (**Cannot select** shows in the display).

Chapter 8:
Other connections

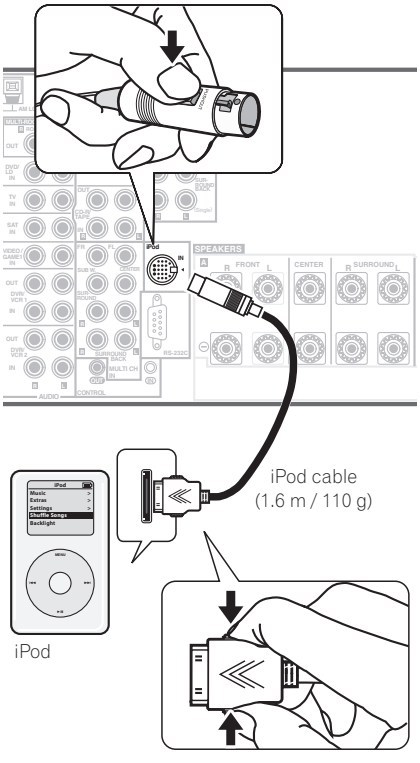
Caution

- Make sure the power is switched off before making or changing the connections.

Connecting an iPod

This receiver has a dedicated iPod terminal that will allow you to control playback of audio and video from your iPod using the controls of this receiver.[1]

Connecting your iPod to the receiver



1 Switch the receiver into standby then use the supplied iPod control cable[2] to connect your iPod to the iPod jack on the rear of the receiver.

Push the connector in until you hear it click home. To disconnect, squeeze the connector (as shown) to release the catch, then pull out.

2 Switch the receiver on and press the iPod input source button to switch the receiver to the iPod.

The front panel display shows **Loading** while the receiver verifies the connection and retrieves data from the iPod.

3 Use the TOP MENU button to display iPod Top menu.

When the display shows **Top Menu** you're ready to play music from the iPod.[3]

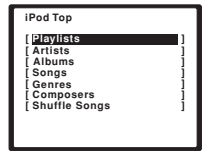
- If after pressing **iPod** the display shows **No Connection**, try switching off the receiver and reconnecting the iPod to the receiver.

iPod playback

To navigate music, photos or video on your iPod it's easiest if you have your TV switched on to take advantage of the OSDs.[4] If you are only listening to music you can, however, use just the receiver's front panel display to do everything if you prefer.

Finding what you want to play

When connected to this receiver, you can browse music, photos or video stored on your iPod. When browsing music, you can browse by playlist, artist, album name, song name, genres or composers, similar to using the iPod directly.



1 Use the ↑/↓ buttons to select a category then press ENTER to browse that category.

- To return to the previous level any time, press **RETURN**.

Note

1 This system is compatible with an iPod, iPod mini and iPod Photo portable device (third generation and above), however, compatibility may vary depending on the software version of your iPod. This receiver does not support software versions prior to iPod update 2004-10-20. For supported versions, consult your local Pioneer dealer.

2 • This product is the Pioneer Control Cable for use with an iPod® (third generation and above), iPod Mini or iPod Photo.
• This cable is for connection only to the dock connector port of the iPod.
• For detailed instructions on using the iPod, please refer to the manual supplied with the iPod.
• The connected iPod should be updated with iPod updater software higher than version 2004-10-20.

3 The controls of your iPod will be inoperable when connected to this receiver (**Pioneer** shows in the iPod display). Features such as the equalizer cannot be controlled using this receiver, and we recommend switching the equalizer off before connecting.

4 • Note that non-roman characters in playlists will be displayed as **#**.
• When watching video content from your iPod, you can only use the iPod controls, and the receiver OSD doesn't appear (iPod video takes priority).

2 Use the ⬆/⬇ buttons to browse the selected category (e.g., albums).

- Use ⬅/➡ to move to previous/next levels.

3 Continue browsing until you arrive at what you want to play, then press ► to start playback.[1]

Navigation through categories on your iPod looks like this:

Playlist ➞ Song
Artist ➞ Album ➞ Song
Album ➞ Song
Song
Genre ➞ Artist ➞ Album ➞ Song
Composer ➞ Album ➞ Song
Shuffle Songs

Tip

- You can play all of the songs in a particular category by selecting the **All** item at the top of each category list. For example, you can play all the songs by a particular artist.

Basic playback controls

The following table shows the basic playback controls for your iPod:

Button	What it does
►	Press to start playback. If you start playback when something other than a song is selected, all the songs that fall into that category will play.
■	Press to stop playback.
II	Pauses playback, or restarts playback when paused.
◄◄/►►	Press and hold during playback to start scanning.
I◄◄/►►I	Press to skip to previous/next song.
↻	Press repeatedly to switch between **Repeat One**, **Repeat All** and **Repeat Off**.
⤮	Press repeatedly to switch between **Shuffle Songs**, **Shuffle Albums** and **Shuffle Off**.
DISP	Press repeatedly to change the song playback information displayed.
⬅/➡	During playback, press to skip to previous/next playlist; when browsing, press to move to previous/next levels.
TOP MENU	Press to return to the **iPod Top** menu screen.
RETURN	Press to return to the previous level.

Watching photos and video content

To view photos or video on your iPod, since video control is not possible using this receiver, you must use the main controls of your iPod instead.

1 Press PHOTO to switch to the iPod controls for photo and video playback.

The receiver controls will be unavailable while you are watching iPod videos or browsing photos.

2 Press PHOTO again to switch back to the receiver controls when you're done.

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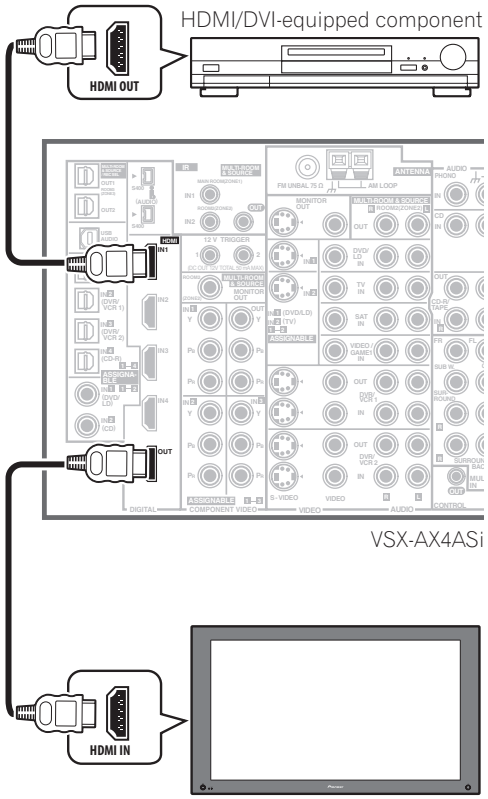
Note

1 If you're in the song category, you can also press **ENTER** to start playback.

Connecting using HDMI

If you have a HDMI or DVI (with HDCP) equipped component, you can connect it to this receiver using a commercially available HDMI cable.[1]

The HDMI connection transfers uncompressed digital video, as well as almost every kind of digital audio that the connected component is compatible with, including DVD-Video, DVD-Audio (see below for limitations), Video CD/Super VCD, CD and MP3. See *About the video converter* on page 11 for more on HDMI compatibility.

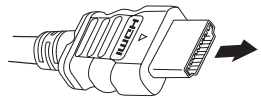


1 Use an HDMI cable to connect the HDMI IN interconnect on this receiver to an HDMI output on your HDMI component.

HDMI appears on the front panel when an HDMI-equipped component is connected.

2 Use an HDMI cable to connect the HDMI OUT interconnect on this receiver to an HDMI interconnect on a HDMI-compatible monitor.

- The arrow on the cable connector body should be facing right for correct alignment with the connector on the player.



3 Use the INPUT SELECT button to select the HDMI input you've connected to (for example, HDMI 2).

You can also use the front panel **INPUT SELECTOR** dial.

- Set the HDMI parameter in *Setting the AV options* on page 66 to **THROUGH** if you want to hear HDMI audio output from your TV or plasma display (no sound will be heard from this receiver).
- If the video signal does not appear on your TV or plasma display, try adjusting the resolution settings on your component or display. Note that some components (such as video game units) have resolutions that may not be converted. In this case, use an analog video connection.
- You can't hear HDMI audio through this receiver's digital out jacks.

About HDMI

HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface) supports both video and audio on a single digital connection for use with DVD players, DTV, set-top boxes, and other AV devices. HDMI was developed to provide the technologies of High Bandwidth Digital Content Protection (HDCP) as well as Digital Visual Interface (DVI) in one specification. HDCP is used to protect digital content transmitted and received by DVI-compliant displays.

HDMI has the capability to support standard, enhanced, or high-definition video plus standard to multi-channel surround-sound audio. HDMI features include uncompressed digital video, a bandwidth of up to 2.2 gigabytes per second (with HDTV signals), one connector (instead of several cables and connectors), and communication between the AV source and AV devices such as DTVs.

HDMI, the HDMI logo and High-Definition Multimedia Interface are trademarks or registered trademarks of HDMI licensing LLC.

Note

1 • An HDMI connection can only be made with DVI-equipped components compatible with both DVI and High Bandwidth Digital Content Protection (HDCP). If you choose to connect to a DVI connector, you will need a separate adaptor (DVI → HDMI) to do so. A DVI connection, however, does not support audio signals. Consult your local audio dealer for more information.

• This unit has been designed to be compliant with HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface) Version 1.2. Depending on the component you have connected, using a DVI connection may result in unreliable signal transfers. Also, when using a component with HDMI version 1.0, it is not possible to output copy-controlled DVD-Audio CPPM sources from the HDMI connection.

Using the i.LINK interface

VSX-AX4ASi only

If you have a component with an i.LINK connector, you can connect it to this receiver using an i.LINK cable.

Since the i.LINK interface does not transmit video signals, the video signal of i.LINK-connected components must be connected with other cables (see *Connecting your equipment* on page 10 for more on making video connections). If you've already hooked up the video signal from the component, assign the i.LINK input to the input function to which you've connected the video signals (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63). See *Checking the i.LINK inputs* below to confirm your i.LINK settings.

The two i.LINK connectors on the rear of your receiver are 4-pin connectors. Use a 4-pin, S400 i.LINK cable to connect i.LINK-equipped components.

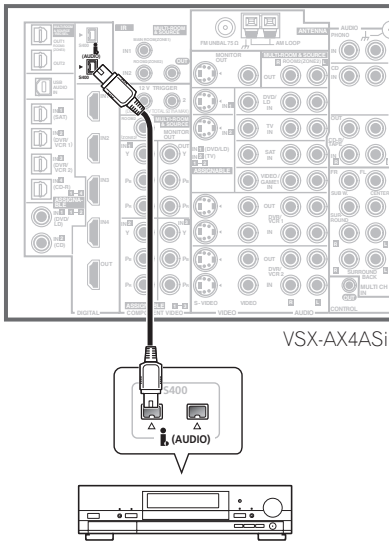
Caution

- If your i.LINK connector comes into contact with metallic parts of the receiver other than the i.LINK terminal, an electrical short may occur. Some cables have metal parts that may touch the unit when connected. Please take care to use a suitable i.LINK cable only.

Important

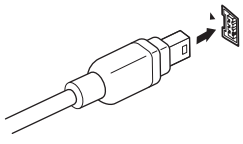
- Please use 4-pin, S400 cables less than 3.5 meters long. Although longer ones are available, they may not work reliably.
- There may be cases where the PQLS/rate control function and/or the i.LINK audio does not work properly even when connected to i.LINK Audio-compatible equipment.
- Do not connect/disconnect i.LINK cables or switch on/off any components connected using i.LINK when the receiver is on.

1 Use an i.LINK cable to connect one of the i.LINK connectors on this receiver to an i.LINK connector on your i.LINK component.



i.LINK-equipped component

- The arrow on the cable connector body should be lined up with the arrow (to the left of the connector) on the receiver for correct alignment. The i.LINK cable should be inserted straight into the connector so that it snaps easily into place. If not connected properly the receiver will not be able to recognize any connected components. Note that the i.LINK cable is fragile and can be broken easily if too much force is used when connecting.



2 Assign the i.LINK component to the input you want, then make any necessary output settings on the component.

See *The Input Setup menu* on page 63 to assign the component to an input function on this receiver. Follow the operating instructions that came with the component to make any necessary output settings.

- You can connect several components together using i.LINK. See *Creating an i.LINK network* below.

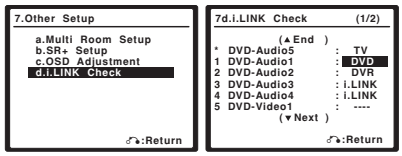
Checking the i.LINK inputs

If you have several i.LINK-equipped components and have assigned them to input functions in *The Input Setup menu* on page 63, you can confirm the settings you made below.

1 Select 'i.LINK Check' from the Other Setup menu and press ENTER.

See *The Other Setup menu* on page 64 for more on navigating this menu screen.

- If no i.LINK-equipped components are connected **i.LINK Check** cannot be selected.



2 Scroll through the list to confirm your settings.

When a number of i.LINK-equipped components are connected to your receiver, the i.LINK-equipped component you are looking for might be listed on additional display screens.

- **i.LINK** is displayed after unassigned device names (e.g. **DV-868AVi [i.LINK]**).
- If a connected devices cannot output (playback) a source using the i.LINK connection, **[- - - -]** is displayed after the input device name (e.g. **DV-868AVi [- - - -]**). Non-compatible devices cannot be assigned to inputs.
- When the cables for an assigned input device become loose or the power is cut to the device, an asterisk (*****) appears before the device name (e.g. ***DV-868AVi [CD]**).

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You will return to the Other Setup menu.

About i.LINK

i.LINK is a trademark name for IEEE1394, a high-speed interface for digital audio, video and other data found on personal computers, digital camcorders, and other kinds of audio and audio/visual equipment. A single i.LINK connector can both send and receive data at the same time, so only one cable is required to connect components for two-way communication.

"i.LINK" and the "i.LINK" logo are trademarks of Sony Corporation.

About PQLS rate control

Pioneer's PQLS (Precision Quartz Lock System) technology provides high-precision digital audio from DVD-A, SACD and audio CD sources when you use the i.LINK interface. A precision quartz controller in this receiver eliminates distortion caused by timing errors (jitter), giving you the best possible digital-to-analog conversion from the digital source.

To take advantage of PQLS, you must have a player compatible with rate-control, and it must be switched on and connected to this receiver through the i.LINK network.

Creating an i.LINK network

Using i.LINK it is possible to chain up to 17 components together so that the digital audio and control signals from each component is available to other components in the network. With the addition of an i.LINK repeater, it's possible to connect up to 63 components.

i.LINK connectors come in 4-pin and 6-pin configurations. This player uses the 4-pin connection, but the two types can be mixed on a network.

This receiver is compatible with i.LINK Audio (A&M protocol) components, such as DVD players. Note that when connected to i.LINK MPEG-II TS equipment (such as a digital satellite tuner), i.LINK DV equipment (such as a DVD recorder or DV camcorder), or an i.LINK-equipped personal computer, audio and video signals are not transmitted, and connecting to these devices sometimes causes network interruptions. Check the operating instructions supplied with your other i.LINK components for compatibility information.

This receiver is DTCP (Digital Transmission Content Protection) compliant, so you can play DVD-A, DVD-Video, and SACD i.LINK audio.

When setting up an i.LINK network, it's important that the components form an open ended chain (fig. 1), or a tree (fig. 2).

fig. 1

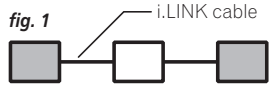
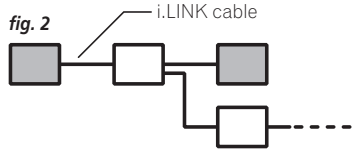


fig. 2



The system will not work if the connected components form a loop. If a loop is detected, the message **LOOP CONNECT** shows in the display. Figs. 3 and 4 show connections that form a loop.

fig. 3

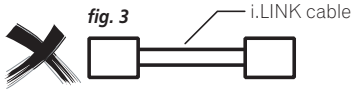
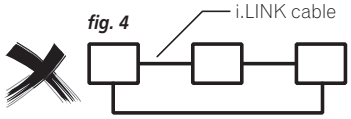


fig. 4



Another consideration when connecting i.LINK devices is the speed of the interface. At present there are three speeds; S100 (slowest), S200 and S400 (fastest). This receiver uses the S400 type. Although you can use components with different speeds together, we recommend connecting slower-speed components at the edge of the network if possible (shown by the shaded boxes in figs. 1 and 2). This will keep the network free of bottlenecks.

When used within an i.LINK network, this receiver must be on for the i.LINK connection to be maintained. Other components in the network may or may not maintain the connection in standby (none will when the power is completely off)—check the operating instructions supplied with individual components. Note that the audio may be momentarily interrupted if a component in the i.LINK network is switched on/off, or its i.LINK connection is switched on/off.

This product complies with the following i.LINK interface specifications:

1) IEEE Std. 1394a-2000, Standard for a High Performance Serial Bus

2) Audio and Music Data Transmission Protocol 2.0 Following the standard for AM824 sequence adaptation layers, the product is compatible with IEC60958 bitstream, DVD-A and SACD.

Connecting the multichannel analog inputs

For DVD Audio and SACD playback, your DVD player may have 5.1, 6.1 or 7.1 channel analog outputs (depending on whether your player supports surround back channels).[1] Make sure that the player is set to output multichannel analog audio.

1 Connect the front, surround, center and subwoofer outputs on your DVD player to the corresponding MULTI CH input jack on this receiver.

- Use standard RCA/phono jack cables for the connections.

2 If your DVD player also has outputs for surround back channels, connect these to the corresponding MULTI CH input jacks on this receiver.

- Use standard RCA/phono jack cables for the connections.
- If there is a single surround back output, connect it to the **SURROUND BACK L (Single)** jack on this receiver.

Selecting the multichannel analog inputs

If you have connected a decoder or a DVD player as above, you must select the analog multichannel inputs for surround sound playback.[2]



1 Make sure you have set the playback source to the proper output setting.
For example, you might need to set your DVD player to output multichannel analog audio.

2 Use the INPUT SELECT button to select MULTI CH IN.
You can also use the **INPUT SELECTOR** dial on the front panel.

- Depending on the DVD player you're using, the analog output level of the subwoofer channel may be too low. In this case switch the receiver into standby, then press ⏻ **STANDBY/ON** while holding down **VIDEO SELECT** on the front panel. This switches between **SW IN +10dB** (increase of 10 decibels) and **SW IN 0dB** (default) in the subwoofer channel.

Note

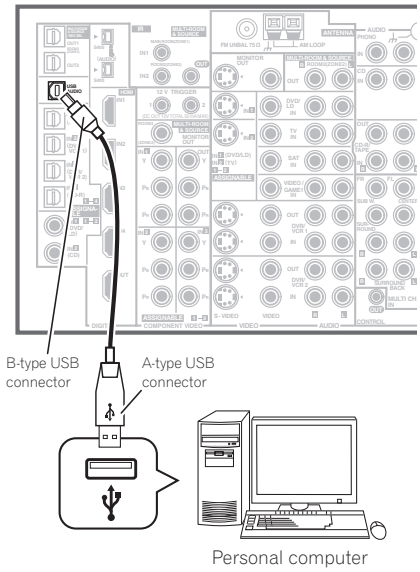
1 To listen to multichannel analog audio you'll need to switch the input signal selector to **MULTI CH INPUT** (see *Selecting the multichannel analog inputs* above for more on this).

2 • When playback from the multichannel inputs is selected, you can't use Midnight/Loudness, Dialog Enhancement or the **SIGNAL SELECT** and **ANALOG ATT** buttons, as well as any of the listening modes (including **STEREO** and the surround back channel processing).
- When playback from the multichannel inputs is selected, only the volume and channel levels can be set.
- You can't listen to your speaker B (Second Zone) system during playback from the multichannel inputs.

Using the USB interface

VSX-AX4ASi only

It is possible to listen to two channels of audio from your computer by connecting to the USB interface on the rear of this receiver. Depending on your model of computer and the software installed, you can listen to the stereo audio source through the speaker setup you've connected to this receiver.[1]



1 Connect your computer's USB terminal to the USB terminal on the rear panel of this receiver.

2 Switch on your computer and this receiver.

3 If you're connecting for the first time, wait for the USB driver installation to finish.

The installation may take a minute or two to complete. Make sure you leave the USB cable connected until the dialog box indicates that the USB setup is finished. Note that some older operating systems may require a disc for installation.[2]

4 Use the INPUT SELECT button to select USB.

You can also use the **INPUT SELECTOR** dial on the front panel.

5 Make any necessary settings required to select the USB interface as your computer audio output.

You will need to make sure the correct speaker setting is selected with the audio software you're using. Please refer to the manual that came with the software to make these settings.

6 Turn up the volume control on your computer and this receiver.

You may want to start with a fairly low volume on this receiver and turn it up as necessary after you've checked your levels.

7 Start playback of a source on your computer.

Caution

- Make sure you don't switch off the computer or unplug the USB cable during playback.
- To prevent noise being output, don't use other software on your computer during playback.
- Pioneer is not responsible for computer system damage, software crashes or failures, or any other possible computer problems due to this configuration.

Microsoft®, Windows® XP, Windows® 2000, Windows® Millennium Edition, Windows® 98, and Windows NT® are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

Note

1 • Windows® XP, Windows® 2000, Windows® Millennium Edition and Windows® 98 Second Edition operating systems have been tested for compatibility with this interface, but depending on your computer setup, you may find that your system is not compatible.
- Make sure you use a USB cable that connects from an A-type connector (from your PC) to a 4-pin B-type connector (to the receiver).
- The USB specification is version 1.1 compatible, and the USB Audio Class specification is 1.0 compatible.
- Any computer alert sounds will also be heard through the speakers unless you switch them off from the computer's control panel.
- You won't be able to hear the audio from the USB connection through the digital outputs of this receiver.
- Note that using hubs or extensions may cause connection problems.

2 If your PC doesn't recognize the receiver, try disconnecting the USB cable and connecting it again. If it is still unrecognized, restart the computer.

Second Zone speaker B setup

Caution

- *Before making or changing the connections*, switch off the power and disconnect the power cord from the power outlet. Plugging in components should be the last connection you make with your system.
- Be careful not to allow any contact between speaker wires from different terminals.
- You can use speakers with a nominal impedance between 6 Ω to 16 Ω (please see *Switching the speaker impedance* on page 69 if you plan to use speakers with an impedance of less than 8 Ω).

After selecting **2nd Zone** in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37, you can use the speakers connected to the (surround back) B speaker terminals on the rear panel to listen to stereo playback in another room. See *Switching the speaker system* below for the listening options with this setup.

1 Connect a pair of speakers to the surround back speaker terminals on the rear panel.
Connect them the same way you connected your speakers in *Installing your speaker system* on page 17. Make sure to review *Placing the speakers* on page 18 when placing the speakers in another room.

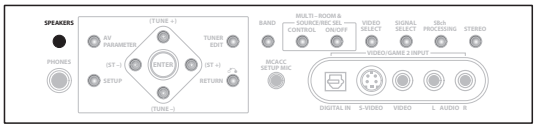
2 Select '2nd Zone' from the 'Surr Back System' menu.
See *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 to do this.

Switching the speaker system

If you selected **2nd Zone** in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37, three speaker system settings are possible using the **SPEAKERS** button. If you selected **Normal (SB)** or **Front Bi-Amp**, the button will simply switch your main speaker system on or off. The options below are for the **2nd Zone** setting only.[1]

- **Use the SPEAKERS button on the front panel to select a speaker system setting.**

As mentioned above, if you have selected **Normal (SB)**, the button will simply switch your main speaker system (A) on or off.



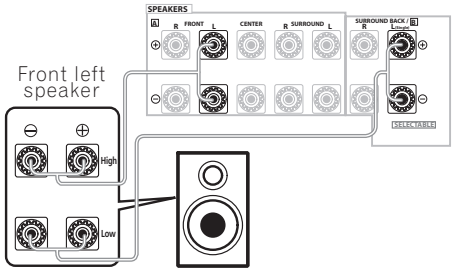
Press repeatedly to choose a speaker system option:

- **SP▶A** – Sound is output from speaker system A and the same signal is output from the pre-out terminals.
- **SP▶B** – Sound is output from the two speakers connected to speaker system B. Multichannel sources will not be heard. The same signal is output from the surround back channel pre-out terminals.
- **SP▶AB** – Sound is output from speaker system A (up to 5 channels, depending on the source), the two speakers in speaker system B, and the subwoofer. The sound from speaker system B will be the same as the sound from speaker system A (multichannel sources will be downmixed to 2 channels).
- **SP▶** (off) – No sound is output from the speakers. The same sound is output from the pre-out terminals (including from your subwoofer, if connected) as when selecting speaker system A (above).

Bi-amping your front speakers

Bi-amping is when you connect the high frequency driver and low frequency driver of your speakers to different amplifiers (in this case, to both front and surround back terminals) for better crossover performance. Your speakers must be bi-ampable to do this (having separate terminals for high and low) and the sound improvement will depend on the kind of speakers you're using.

1 Connect your speakers as shown below.
This illustration below shows the connections for bi-amping your front left speaker. Hook up your front right speaker in the same way.



Since both front and surround back speaker terminals output the same audio, it doesn't matter which set (front or surround back) is powering which part (**High** or **Low**) of the speaker.

- Make sure that the **+** / **–** connections are properly inserted.

Note

1 • The subwoofer output depends on the settings you made in *Manual speaker setup* on page 44. However, if **SP▶B** is selected above, no sound is heard from the subwoofer (the LFE channel is not downmixed).
• Depending on the settings in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 output from the surround back pre-out terminals may change.
• All speaker systems (except **2nd Zone** connections) are switched off when headphones are connected.

2 Select the 'Front Bi-Amp' setting from the 'Surr Back System' menu.
See *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 to specify how you're using the surround back speaker terminals.

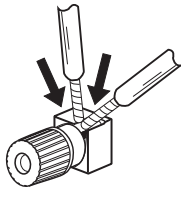
Caution

- Most speakers with both **High** and **Low** terminals have two metal plates that connect the **High** to the **Low** terminals. These must be removed when you are bi-amping the speakers or you could severely damage the amplifier. See your speaker manual for more information.
- If your speakers have a removable crossover network, make sure you do not remove it for bi-amping. Doing so may damage your speakers.

Bi-wiring your speakers

The reasons for bi-wiring are basically the same as bi-amping, but additionally, interference effects within the wire could be reduced, producing better sound. Again, to do this your speakers must be bi-wireable (that is they must have separate terminals for the high and low frequencies). When bi-wiring, make sure you've selected **Normal (SB)** or **2nd Zone** in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37.

- **To bi-wire a speaker, connect two speaker cords to the speaker terminal on the receiver.**



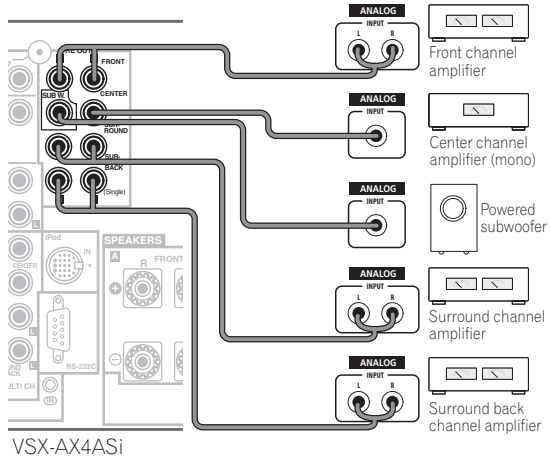
Caution

- Make sure you use a parallel (not series, which are fairly uncommon) connection when bi-wiring your speakers.
- Don't connect different speakers from the same terminal in this way.

Connecting additional amplifiers

This receiver has more than enough power for any home use, but it's possible to add additional amplifiers to every channel of your system using the pre-outs. Make the connections shown below to add amplifiers to power your speakers.

- Before making or changing the connections, switch off the power and disconnect the power cord from the AC outlet.

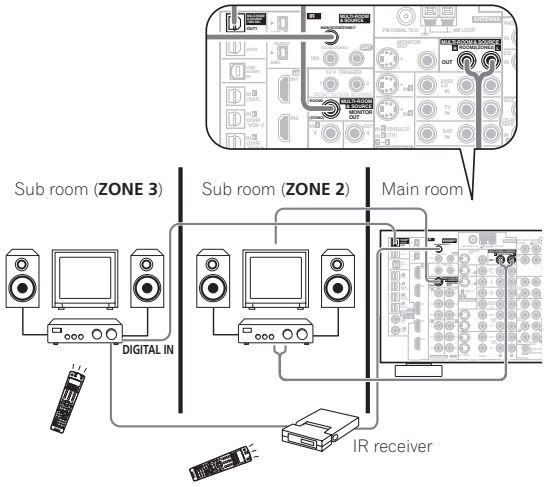


VSX-AX4ASi

- You can use the additional amplifier on the surround back channel pre-outs for a single speaker as well. In this case plug the amplifier into the left (**L (Single)**) terminal only.
- The sound from the surround back terminals will depend on how you have configured the *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37.
- To hear sound only from the pre-outs, switch the speaker system to **OFF**, or simply disconnect any speakers that are connected directly to the receiver.
- If you're not using a subwoofer, change the front speaker setting (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45) to large.

Multi-room listening

This receiver can power up to three independent systems in separate rooms after you have made the proper multi-room connections. An example multi-room setup is shown below, but the number of multi-room connections (and the way you choose to connect them) depends on how you want to set up your system.



Different sources can be playing in three rooms at the same time or, depending on your needs, the same source can also be used. The main and sub rooms have independent power (the main room power can be off while one (or both) of the sub rooms is on) and the sub rooms can be controlled by the remote or front panel controls. However, you may need to specify the volume settings in *Multi-Room setup* on page 65.

Making multi-room connections

It is possible to make these connections if you have a separate TV and speakers for your primary (**ROOM 2**) sub room, and a separate amplifier[1] (and speakers) for your secondary (**ROOM 3**) sub room. You will also need a separate amplifier if you are not using the Surround Back System setup (see below) for your primary sub room. There are two primary sub room setups possible with this system. Choose whichever works best for you.

Multi-room listening options

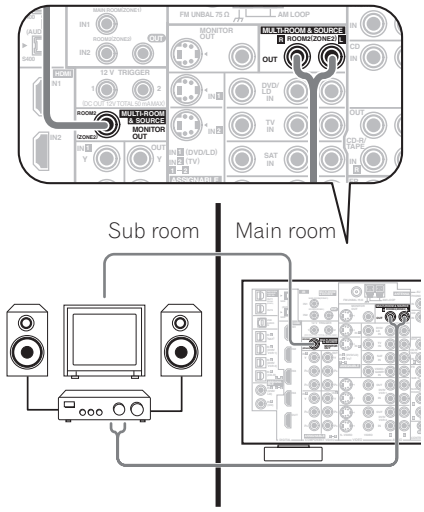
The following table shows what you can listen to in each sub room:

Sub room	Input sources available
ROOM2 (ZONE2)	iPod, the built-in tuner and other analog audio sources (except **MULTI CH IN**). With video sources, only composite video is possible.
ROOM3 (ZONE3)	Only digital audio sources (the input source must already be assigned using the *The Input Setup menu* on page 63) are available.

Basic multi-room setup (ROOM 2)

1 Connect a separate amplifier to the MULTI-ROOM & SOURCE OUT jacks and a TV monitor to the MULTI-ROOM & SOURCE MONITOR OUT jacks, both on the rear of this receiver.

You should have a pair of speakers attached to the sub room amplifier as shown in the following illustration.



Surround Back System multi-room setup (ROOM 2)

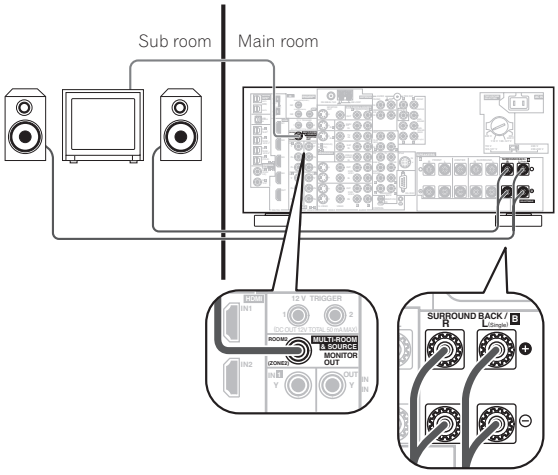
You must select **MR&S** in *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37 to use this setup. Note that the sound in the sub room will be temporarily interrupted when controlling the main room (for example, changing the input source or starting playback).

Note

1 You can't use sound controls (such as the tone controls or Midnight listening) or any surround modes with a separate amplifier in the sub room. You can, however, use the features available with your sub room amplifier.

- **Connect a TV monitor to the MULTI-ROOM & SOURCE MONITOR OUT jacks on the rear of this receiver.**

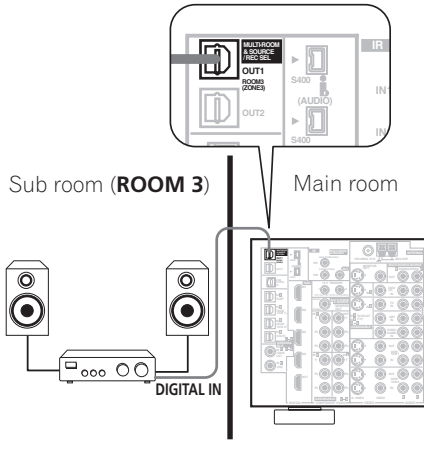
You should have a pair of speakers attached to the surround back speaker terminals as shown below.



Secondary multi-room setup (ROOM 3)

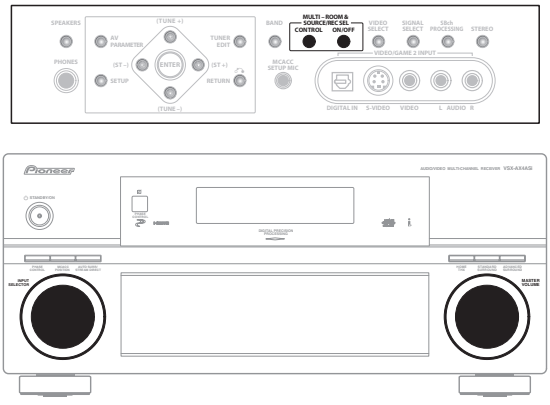
- **Connect a separate amplifier to the OUT1 ROOM3 (ZONE3) digital output on the rear of this receiver.**

The amplifier must have an optical digital input to make this connection. This will allow you to hear the digital output of a component in a second sub room.[1]



Using the multi-room controls

The following steps use the front panel controls to adjust the sub room volume and select sources. See *Multi-room remote controls* below and (VSX-AX4ASi only) *Sub remote control unit* on page 27 for more on using the remote control with the multi-room feature.



1 Press the MULTI ROOM & SOURCE ON/OFF button on the front panel.

Each press selects a multi-room option:

- **ROOM 2 ON** – Selects your primary (**ROOM 2**) sub room
- **ROOM 2&3 ON** – Select both sub rooms
- **ROOM 3 ON** – Selects your secondary (**ROOM 3**) sub room
- **Off** – Switches the multi-room feature off

The **MULTI ROOM** indicator lights when the multi-room control has been switched on.

2 Press CONTROL to select the sub room(s) you want.[2]

If you selected **ROOM 2&3 ON** above, you can toggle between **ROOM 2** and **ROOM 3**.

- When the receiver is on,[3] make sure that any operations for the sub room are done while **ZONE** and your selected sub room(s) show in the display. If this is not showing, the front panel controls affect the main room only.

3 Use the INPUT SELECTOR dial to select the source for the room you have selected.

For example, **ROOM 2 CD-R** sends the source connected to the **CD-R** inputs to the primary (**ROOM 2**) sub room.

- If you select **TUNER**, you can use the front panel **TUNER** controls to select a preset station (see *Saving station presets* on page 33 if you're unsure how to do this).[4]

Note

1 Only one sub room is possible if you connect the **OUT1 ROOM3 (ZONE3)** digital output to your second sub room.
2 Note that when recording, this also selects the **RECOUT** input source. See *Making an audio or a video recording* on page 67 for more on this.
3 If the receiver is in standby, the display is dimmed, and **ZONE** and your selected sub room(s) continue to show in the display.
4 The tuner cannot be tuned to more than one station at a time. Therefore, changing the station in one room also changes the station in the other room. Please be careful not to change stations when recording a radio broadcast.

4 Use the MASTER VOLUME dial to adjust the volume.
This is only possible if you selected the **VARIABLE** volume control in *Multi-Room setup* on page 65.[1]

5 When you're finished, press CONTROL again to return to the main room controls.
You can also press the **MULTI ROOM & SOURCE ON/OFF** button on the front panel to switch off all output to the sub room(s).[2]

Multi-room remote controls

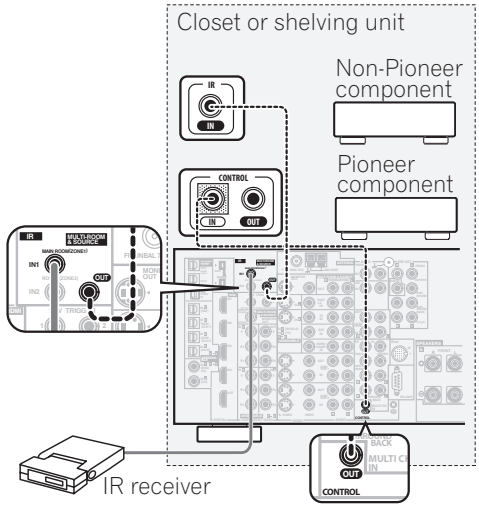
The following table shows the possible multi-room remote controls:

Button	What it does
SHIFT+ **RECEIVER**	Selects the sub room you want to control, shown in the display as **RCV/RM2** (**ZONE**/**ROOM2**) or **RCV/RM3** (**ZONE**/**ROOM3**).
⏻	Switches on/off power in the currently selected sub room.
INPUT SELECT	Use to select the input source in the currently selected sub room.
Input source buttons	Use to select the input source directly (this may not work for some functions) in the currently selected sub room.
VOL +/–	Use to set the listening volume in the currently selected sub room (**ZONE**/**ROOM2** only).

Connecting an IR receiver

If you keep your stereo components in a closed cabinet or shelving unit, you can use an optional IR receiver (such as a Niles or Xantech unit) to control your system instead of the remote sensor on the front panel of this receiver.[3] You may need to specify your IR receiver type in *Multi-Room setup* on page 65.

1 Connect the IR receiver sensor to the MULTI-ROOM & SOURCE IR IN (MAIN ROOM) jack on the rear of this receiver.
If you also plan to use a separate IR receiver in the sub room, connect this to the **ROOM2(ZONE2)** jack. This will allow you to use the sub room remote control as explained in (VSX-AX4ASi only) *Sub remote control unit* on page 27.



2 Connect the IR IN jack of another component to the MULTI-ROOM & SOURCE IR OUT jack on the rear of this receiver to link it to the IR receiver.
Please see the manual supplied with your IR receiver for the type of cable necessary for the connection.

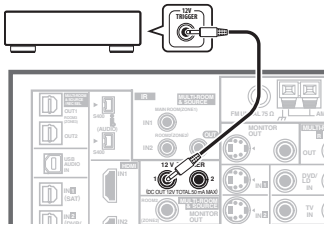
- If you want to link a Pioneer component to the IR receiver, see *Operating other Pioneer components with this unit's sensor* on page 76 to connect to the **CONTROL** jacks instead of the **IR OUT** jack.

Note

1 The volume levels of the main and sub rooms are independent.
2 • You won't be able to switch the main room off completely unless you've switched off the multi-room control first.
• If you don't plan to use the multi-room feature for awhile, turn off the power in both the sub and main rooms so that this receiver is in standby.
3 • Remote operation may not be possible if direct light from a strong fluorescent lamp is shining on the IR receiver remote sensor window.
• Note that other manufacturers may not use the IR terminology. Refer to the manual that came with your component to check for IR compatibility.
• If using two remote controls (at the same time), the IR receiver's remote sensor takes priority over the remote sensor on the front panel.

Switching components on and off using the 12 volt trigger

You can connect components in your system (such as a screen or projector) to this receiver so that they switch on or off using 12 volt triggers when you select an input function. However, you must specify which input functions switch on the trigger using the *The Input Setup menu* on page 63. Note that this will only work with components that have a standby mode.



- **Connect the 12V TRIGGER jack of this receiver to the 12V trigger of another component.**

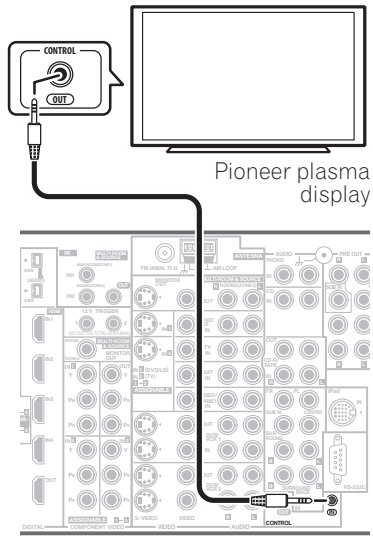
Use a cable with a mono mini-plug on each end for the connection.

- The trigger maximum power is DC OUT 12 V/50 mA total.

After you've specified the input functions that will switch on the trigger, you'll be able to switch the component on or off just by pressing the input function(s) you've set on page 63.

Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display

If you have a Pioneer plasma display, you can use an SR+ cable[1] to connect it to this unit and take advantage of various convenient features, such as automatic video input switching of the plasma display when the input is changed.[2]



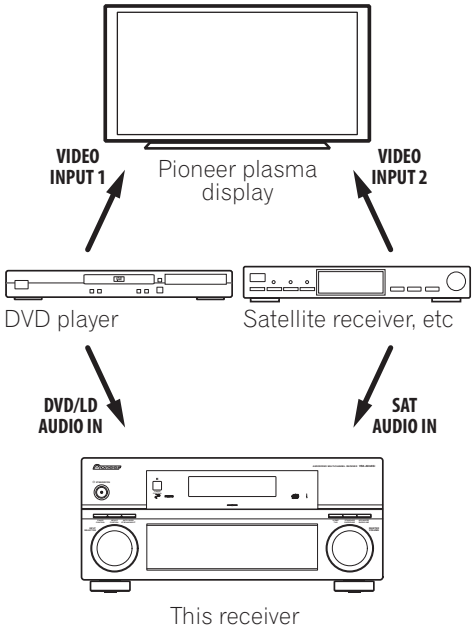
Important

- If you connect to a Pioneer plasma display using an SR+ cable, you will need to point the remote control at the plasma display remote sensor to control the receiver. In this case, you won't be able to control the receiver using the remote control if you switch the plasma display off.
- Before you can use the extra SR+ features, you need to make a few settings in the receiver. See *The Input Setup menu* on page 63 and *SR+ Setup for Pioneer plasma displays* on page 65 for detailed instructions.

Note

1 The 3-ringed SR+ cable from Pioneer is commercially available under the part number ADE7095. Contact the Pioneer Customer Support division for more information on obtaining an SR+ cable (you can also use a commercially available 3-ringed mini phone plug for the connection).
2 This receiver is compatible with all SR+ equipped Pioneer plasma displays from 2003 onward.

• **Use a 3-ringed miniplug SR+ cable to connect the CONTROL IN jack of this receiver with the CONTROL OUT jack of your plasma display.**



To make the most of the SR+ features, you should connect your source components (DVD player, etc.) in a slightly different way to that described in this chapter. For each component, connect the video output directly to the plasma display, and just connect the audio (analog and/or digital) to this receiver.

Using the SR+ mode with a Pioneer plasma display

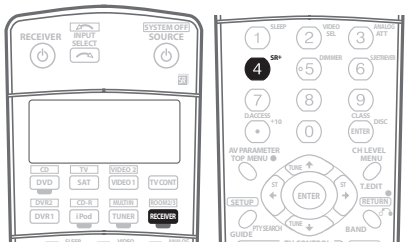
When connected using an SR+ cable, a number of features become available to make using this receiver with your Pioneer plasma display even easier. These features include:

- On-screen displays when making receiver settings, such as speaker setup, MCACC setup, and so on.
- On-screen volume display.
- On-screen display of listening mode.
- Automatic video input switching on the plasma display.
- Automatic volume muting on the plasma display.

See also *SR+ Setup for Pioneer plasma displays* on page 65 for more on setting up the receiver.

Important

- The additional SR+ features do not work when the iPod function is selected.



1 Make sure that the plasma display and this receiver are switched on and that they are connected with the SR+ cable.

See *Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display* above for more on connecting these components.

- Make sure you have also selected the display input to which you've connected the receiver in *The Input Setup menu* on page 63.

2 To switch SR+ mode on/off, press RECEIVER, then the SR+ button.

The front panel display shows **SR+ ON** or **SR+ OFF**.

- The automatic volume muting feature is enabled separately; see *SR+ Setup for Pioneer plasma displays* on page 65.

Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output

If you use the Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ (see page 40) to measure the reverb characteristics of your listening room, you can check the results graphically using a computer connected to this receiver. Use a commercially-available RS-232C cable to connect the RS-232C jack on your computer to the 9-pin RS-232C jack on the back panel of this receiver (the cable must be cross type, female–female).

The software to output the results is available by contacting the Pioneer Authorized Distributor for your area (as listed on the back page of this manual) as well as the instructions necessary for using it.

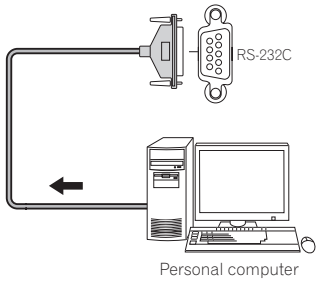
Please make sure your system meets the following requirements:

- Operating system must be Windows® XP, Windows® 2000, Windows® Millennium Edition, Windows® 98 Second Edition, or Windows® NT 4.0 (Service pack 6).
- CPU must be at least Pentium 3 / 300 MHz or AMD K6 / 300 MHz (or equivalent) with at least 128 MB of memory, and your monitor must be able to display a minimum resolution of 800x600.
- An RS-232C port connector is necessary for graphical output. Refer to the operating instructions and/or the PC manufacturer for more information on making the proper port settings.
- System must have internet access.

• Connect your computer to the RS-232C jack on the rear panel of the receiver.

Make sure that the receiver and all connected components are switched off and disconnected from the power outlet when you do this.[1]

Use a commercially-available cable to connect the RS-232C jack on your computer to the 9-pin RS-232C jack on this receiver. See the documentation provided with the Advanced MCACC application for more information.

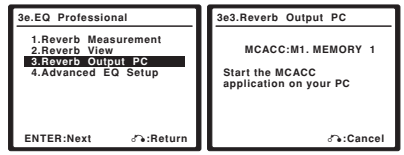


Advanced MCACC output using your PC

Before continuing, make sure you have completed steps 1–3 in *Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 40. Note that transmission data is erased when the receiver is turned off.

1 Select 'Reverb Output PC' and press ENTER.

When the receiver is ready for transmission, **Start the MCACC application on your PC** shows on the OSD.



2 Start the MCACC application on your computer.

Follow the instructions provided with the application. It will take about ten seconds for the transmission to complete, then you will be able to analyze the output on your computer. Since the data will be cleared from the receiver when you restart reverb measurement or turn off the receiver, you might want to save the information on your PC after measurement.

3 When you're finished, press RETURN.

You'll be taken to the Advanced EQ Setup. Depending on the results, you may want to continue with the Advanced EQ setup (see *Using Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 42 for more on this). You can also simply press **RETURN** again to exit the Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ setup.

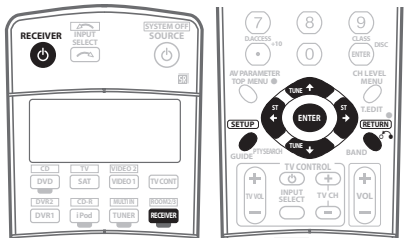
Note

1 Make sure that you do this before continuing to the **Reverb Measurement** option in *Using Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ* on page 42 (measurement data is cleared if you switch off the power).

Chapter 9:
Other Settings

The Input Setup menu

You only need to make settings in the Input Setup menu if you didn't hook up your digital equipment according to the default settings (see *Input function default and possible settings* below). In this case, you need to tell the receiver what equipment is hooked up to which terminal so the buttons on the remote correspond to the components you've connected.



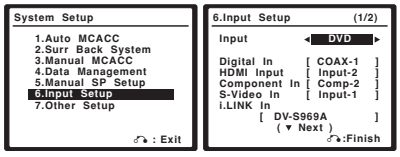
1 Switch on the receiver and your TV.

Use the ⏻ **RECEIVER** button to switch on.

2 Press RECEIVER on the remote control, then press the SETUP button.

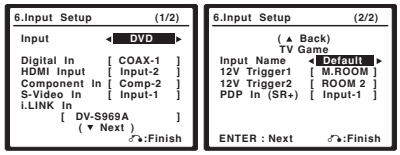
An on-screen display (OSD) appears on your TV. Use the ⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ buttons and **ENTER** to navigate through the screens and select menu items. Press **RETURN** to confirm and exit the current menu.

3 Select 'Input Setup' from the System Setup menu.



4 Select the input function that you want to set up.

The default names correspond with the names next to the terminals on the rear panel (such as **DVD/LD** or **VIDEO 1/GAME 1**) which, in turn, correspond with the names on the remote control.



5 Select the input(s) to which you've connected your component.

For example, if your DVD player only has an optical output, you will need to change the **DVD/LD** input function's **Digital In** setting from **COAX 1** (default) to the optical input you've connected it to. The numbering (**OPT1**–**4**) corresponds with the numbers beside the inputs on the back of the receiver.

- If you change the setting to an input that has been previously assigned to another function (for example, **SAT**) then the setting for that function will automatically be switched off.
- If you used component video cords to connect your component you must tell the receiver which input you connected it to, or else you may see the S-video or composite video input instead of the component video signal.[1]
- If you have more than one iLINK component connected, you can assign each one to a different input function in the same way (to check your settings after doing so, see *Checking the i.LINK inputs* on page 52).[2]

6 When you're finished, select 'Next' to continue to the next screen.

The second screen of the Input setup has three optional settings:

- **Input name** – You can choose to rename the input function for easier identification. Select **Rename** to do so, or **Default** to return to the system default.

Note

1 For high-definition video (using component video connections), or when digital video conversion is switched off (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66), you must connect your TV to this receiver using the same type of video cable as you used to connect your video component.

2 • If you assign i.LINK-equipped components to an input (for example **DVD/LD**), you will be able to select both audio and video signals from i.LINK-equipped components using the corresponding input source button (or the **INPUT SELECT** button / **INPUT SELECTOR** dial). Assigning i.LINK sources also allows you to keeps the sound settings you've made for other input functions.

• An i.LINK-equipped video component should be assigned to the input function to which you have connected the video signal from the component.

• If you assign an i.LINK input to a certain function (for example **DVD/LD**) then any digital inputs previously assigned to that function will automatically be set to **i.LINK** (not assigned).

- **12V Trigger 1 / 2** – After connecting a component to one of the 12 volt triggers (see *Switching components on and off using the 12 volt trigger* on page 60), select **M. ROOM**, **ROOM2**, **ROOM3** or **OFF** for the corresponding trigger setting to switch it on automatically along with the (main or sub) room specified.
- **PDP In (SR+)** – To control certain functions on this receiver from a plasma display, select the display input to which you've connected the receiver.[1]

7 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the System Setup menu.

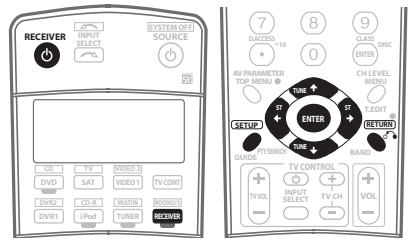
Input function default and possible settings

The terminals on the rear of the receiver generally correspond to the name of one of the input source functions. If you have connected components to this receiver differently from (or in addition to) the defaults below, see *The Input Setup menu* above to tell the receiver how you've connected up. The dots (●) indicate possible assignments.

Input source	Input Terminals				
	Digital	i.LINK	HDMI	Component	S-Video
DVD/LD	COAX 1	●	●	●	IN 1
TV	●	●	●	●	IN 2
SAT	OPT 1	●	●	●	●
DVR/VCR1	OPT 2	●	●	●	*(Fixed)*
DVR/VCR2	OPT 3	●	●	●	*(Fixed)*
VIDEO/GAME1	●	●	●	●	●
VIDEO/GAME2	*(Fixed)*		●		*(Fixed)*
HDMI 1	●	●	(**HDMI-1**)		
HDMI 2	●	●	(**HDMI-2**)		
HDMI 3	●	●	(**HDMI-3**)		
HDMI 4 *(VSX-AX4ASi)*	●	●	(**HDMI-4**)		
USB					
CD	COAX 2	●			
CD-R/TAPE/MD	OPT 4	●			
TUNER					
PHONO					
MULTI CH IN					
iPod					
i.LINK					

The Other Setup menu

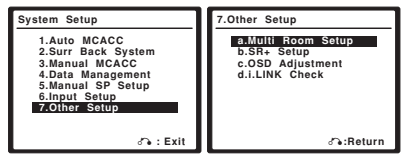
The Other Setup menu is where you can make customized settings to reflect how you are using the receiver.



1 Switch on the receiver and your TV.
Use the ⏻ **RECEIVER** button to switch on.

2 Press RECEIVER on the remote control, then press the SETUP button.
An on-screen display (OSD) appears on your TV. Use the ⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ buttons and **ENTER** to navigate through the screens and select menu items. Press **RETURN** to confirm and exit the current menu.

3 Select 'Other Setup' then press ENTER.



4 Select the setting you want to adjust.
If you are doing this for the first time, you may want to adjust these settings in order:

- **Multi Room Setup** – Specify your volume setting for a multi-room setup (see *Multi-Room setup* below).
- **SR+ Setup** – Specify how you want to control your Pioneer plasma display (see *SR+ Setup for Pioneer plasma displays* below).
- **OSD Adjustment** – Adjust the position of the on-screen display on your TV (see *OSD Adjustment* below).
- **i.LINK Check** *(VSX-AX4ASi only)* – Check which i.LINK-equipped components you have connected, and which input function they are assigned to (*Checking the i.LINK inputs* on page 52).

5 Make the adjustments necessary for each setting, pressing RETURN to confirm after each screen.

Note

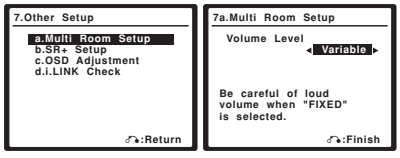
1 You will have to make an SR+ cable connection from a **CONTROL OUT** jack on the display to the **CONTROL IN** jack on this receiver (opposite from the setup in *Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display* on page 60). Note that to control this receiver using the remote, you will have to point it at the plasma display's remote sensor after making this connection.

Multi-Room setup

- Default setting: **Variable**

If you've made multi-room connections (see *Multi-room listening* on page 57) you may need to specify your volume setting.

1 Select 'Multi-Room' from the System Setup menu.



2 Select the volume level setting.[1]

- **Variable** – Use this setting if you've connected a power amplifier in the sub room (this receiver is simply being used as a pre-amp) and you will be using this receiver's controls to adjust the volume.
- **Fixed** – Use this setting if you've connected a fully integrated amplifier (such as another Pioneer VSX receiver) in the sub room and want to use that receiver's volume controls. (This setting is not available if the surround back system setting is set to **Multi Room & Source**.)

With the **Fixed** setting, the source is sent from this receiver at maximum volume, so make sure the volume is quite low in the sub room at first and then experiment to find the correct level.

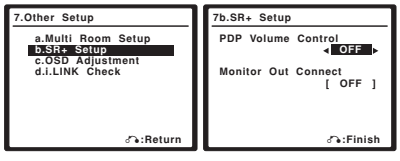
3 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the Other Setup menu.

SR+ Setup for Pioneer plasma displays

Make the following settings if you have connected a Pioneer plasma display to this receiver using an SR+ cable. Note that the number of function settings available will depend on the plasma display you've connected.

See also *Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display* on page 60 and *Using the SR+ mode with a Pioneer plasma display* on page 61.

1 Select 'SR+ Setup' from the Other Setup menu.

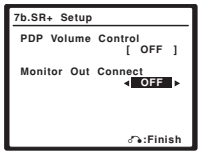


2 Select the 'PDP Volume Control' setting you want.

- **OFF** – The receiver does not control the volume of the plasma display.
- **ON** – When the receiver is switched to one of the inputs that use the plasma display (**DVD/LD**, for example), the volume on the plasma display is muted so only sound from the receiver is heard.

3 Assign any input source connected to the plasma display to the corresponding input number.
This matches the receiver's input source with a numbered video input on the plasma display. For example, assign **DVD/LD** to **input-2** if you have connected the your DVD video output to video input 2 on the plasma display.

- The **Monitor Out Connect** should be set to the input that you've used to connect this receiver to your plasma display.

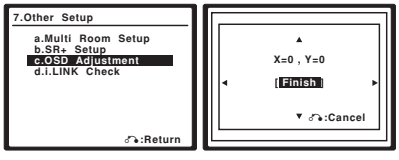


4 When you're finished, press RETURN.
You will return to the Other Setup menu.

OSD Adjustment

Use this feature to adjust your TV display if it seems difficult to see all the instructions on the screen.

1 Select 'OSD Adjustment' from the Other Setup menu.



2 Use ⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ to move the display field around until you get one that you feel best suits your TV.

3 When you're finished, press ENTER.
You will return to the Other Setup menu.

Note

1 If you selected **MR&S** in the *Surround back speaker setting* on page 37, you won't be able to change the volume level.

Chapter 10
Using other functions

Setting the AV options

There are a number of additional sound and picture settings you can make using the AV Parameter menu. The defaults, if not stated, are listed in bold.

Important

- Note that if a setting doesn't appear in the AV Parameter menu, it is unavailable due to the current source, settings and status of the receiver.

1 Press AV PARAMETER.

2 Use ⬆/⬇ to select the setting you want to adjust.

Depending on the current status / mode of the receiver, certain options may not be able to be selected. Check the table below for notes on this.

3 Use ⬅/➡ to set it as necessary.

See the table below for the options available for each setting.

4 Press RETURN to confirm and exit the menu.

Setting	What it does	Option(s)
Midnight	Allows you to hear effective surround sound of movies at low volumes.	**MID/LDN OFF** *MIDNIGHT ON*
Loudness	Used to get good bass and treble from music sources at low volumes.	*LOUDNESS ON*
Tone control	Applies the treble and bass tone controls to a source, or bypasses them completely.	**BYPASS** *ON*
Bass	Adjusts the amount of bass.	–6 to +6 (dB) default: **0** (dB)
Treble	Adjusts the amount of treble.	–6 to +6 (dB) default: **0** (dB)
Center Width[a] (Applicable only when using a center speaker)	Provides a better blend of the front speakers by spreading the center channel between the front right and left speakers, making it sound wider (higher settings) or narrower (lower settings).	0 to 7 default: **3**
Dimension[b]	Adjusts the depth of the surround sound balance from front to back, making the sound more distant (minus settings), or more forward (positive settings).	–3 to +3 default: **0**
Panorama[b]	Extends the front stereo image to include the surround speakers for a 'wraparound' effect.	**OFF** *ON*
Center Image[b] (Applicable only when using a center speaker)	Adjusts the center image to create a wider stereo effect with vocals. Adjust the effect from **0** (all center channel sent to front right and left speakers) to **10** (center channel sent to the center speaker only).	0 to 10 Default: **3**
Effect	Sets the effect level for the currently selected Advanced Surround mode (each mode can be set separately).	10 to 90
High Bit / High Sampling	Creates a wider dynamic range with digital sources like CDs or DVDs.	**OFF** *ON*
Digital Noise Reduction (DNR)	May improve the quality of sound in a noisy source (for example, cassette or video tape with lots of background noise) when switched on.	**OFF** *ON*
Dual Mono	Specifies how dual mono encoded Dolby Digital and DTS soundtracks should be played. Dual mono is not widely used, but is sometimes necessary when two languages need to be sent to separate channels.	**CH1** – Channel 1 is heard only *CH2* – Channel 2 is heard only *CH1 CH2* – Both channels heard from front speakers
Dynamic Range Control (DRC)	Specifies the amount of dynamic range adjustment to Dolby Digital and DTS movie soundtracks (you may want to use this when listening to surround sound at low volumes).	**OFF** *MAX* *MID*
Dialog Enhance-ment[a]	Localizes dialog in the center channel to make it stand out from other background sounds in a TV or movie soundtrack.	**OFF** *ON*
SACD Gain[c]	Brings out detail in SACDs by maximizing the dynamic range (during digital processing).	0 to 6 (dB) default: **0** (dB)
Sound Delay	Some monitors have a slight delay when showing video, so the soundtrack will be slightly out of sync with the picture. By adding a bit of delay, you can adjust the sound to match the presentation of the video.	0.0 to 6.0 (frames) *1 second = 30 frames (NTSC)/ 25 frames (PAL)*
HDMI[d]	Specifies the routing of the HDMI audio signal out of this receiver (*amp*) or *through* to a TV or plasma display.	**AMP** *THROUGH*
Digital Video Conversion	Converts video signals for output from the **MONITOR OUT** jacks for all video types.	**ON** *OFF*

Setting	What it does	Option(s)
Brightness	Adjusts the overall brightness.	–10 to +10 default: **0**
Contrast	Adjusts the contrast between light and dark.	–10 to +10 default: **0**
Hue	Adjusts the red/green balance.	–10 to +10 default: **0**
Resolution[e]	Specifies the output resolution of the video signal (select this according to the resolution of your monitor and the disc you wish to watch).	**PURE**
		480p (NTSC) or 576p (PAL)
		720p
		1080i
Aspect	Specifies the aspect ratio of an analog video signal (if the image doesn't match your monitor type, cropping occurs as indicated in parentheses at left).	**THROUGH** *(none)*
		4:3 (left/right)
		ZOOM (top/bottom)

a. Only when listening to 2-channel sources in Dolby Pro Logic IIx Music / Dolby Pro Logic II Music mode.
b. Only when listening to 2-channel sources in Neo:6 Music mode.
c. You shouldn't have any problems using this with most SACD discs, but if the sound distorts, it is best to switch the gain setting back to **0** dB (*VSX-AX2AS only* – The feature is intended for use with future improvements with the HDMI interface).
d. When **THROUGH** is selected, the Resolution is automatically set to **PURE** (regardless of the setting).
e. There are cases where (depending on the resolution of the video signal and your monitor) you may not be able to see a picture after selecting a resolution setting. If this happens, select a different resolution setting. Also, depending on the source component or the monitor you are using the output resolution may be different from the setting you've made here. Note that analog input signals are unaffected when using the **720p** and **1080i** resolution settings.

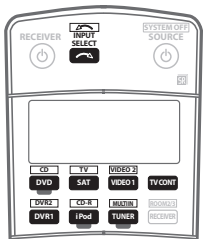
Making an audio or a video recording

You can make an audio or a video recording from the built-in tuner, or from an audio or video source connected to the receiver (such as a CD player or TV). [1]

Keep in mind you can't make a digital recording from an analog source or vice-versa, so make sure the components you are recording to/from are hooked up in the same way (see *Connecting your equipment* on page 10 for more on connections).

Since the video converter is not available when making recordings (from the video **OUT** jacks) make sure to use the same type of video cable for connecting your recorder as you used to connect your video source (the one you want to record) to this receiver. For example, you must connect your recorder using S-video if your source has also been connected using S-video.

For more information about video connections, see *Connecting a DVD/HDD recorder, VCR and other video sources* on page 13.



1 Select the source you want to record.
Use the input source buttons (or **INPUT SELECT**).

- If necessary, press **SIGNAL SELECT** to select the input signal corresponding to the source component (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31 for more on this).

2 Prepare the source you want to record.
Tune to the radio station, load the CD, video, DVD etc.

3 Prepare the recorder.
Insert a blank tape, MD, video etc. into the recording device and set the recording levels.

Refer to the instructions that came with the recorder if you are unsure how to do this. Most video recorders set the audio recording level automatically—check the component's instruction manual if you're unsure.

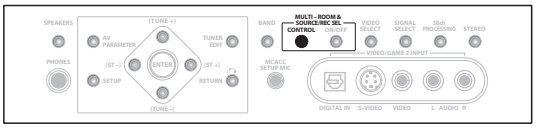
4 Start recording, then start playback of the source component.

Note

1 • The receiver's volume, AV parameters (the tone controls, for example), and surround effects have no effect on the recorded signal.
• Some digital sources are copy-protected, and can only be recorded in analog.
• Some video sources are copy-protected. These cannot be recorded.

Playing a different source when recording

Using this receiver, it's possible to listen to a different source than the one you're recording.



1 During recording, press the REC SELECT CONTROL button on the front panel until RECOUT shows in the display.[1]

2 While RECOUT shows in the display, use the INPUT SELECTOR dial to select the source you want to record.

The default, **RECOUT SOURCE**, records the source you're currently listening to (as in *Making an audio or a video recording* above).

- Note that the setting you make here is stored in memory, even if you switch off the receiver, so if you want to record a different input source later, you must do so with **REC SELECT**, or by selecting **RECOUT SOURCE**.

3 After RECOUT disappears from the display, select the input source you want to listen to.

This will be heard from the main system without affecting your recording.[2]

Tip

- If you have a digital recorder connected to the **DIGITAL OUT1** (**ROOM3**) digital output and **ROOM 3** is switched on (see *Using the multi-room controls* on page 58), you can also select a different input source for this output while **ROOM 3** shows in the display.

Reducing the level of an analog signal

The input attenuator lowers the input level of an analog signal when it's too strong. You can use this if you find the that the **OVER** indicator is lights often, or you can hear distortion in the sound.[3]



- **Press ANALOG ATT to switch the input attenuator on or off.**

Watching video and audio sources independently

You can listen to a sound source and select a different video source on your TV.



- **While listening to a source, press VIDEO SEL (VIDEO SELECT) to select the video source you want to watch.**

Press repeatedly to cycle through the possible video sources. You can select **DVD**, **TV**, **SAT**, **DVR1**, **DVR2**, **VIDEO1**, **VIDEO2** or **OFF** (no video signal).[4]

Note

1 If **RECOUT** does not appear in the display, you may have to switch **ROOM 2** off by pressing **MULTI ROOM & SOURCE ON/OFF** and selecting either **ROOM 3** or off (the **MULTI-ROOM** indicator disappears). See *Using the multi-room controls* on page 58 for more on this.

2 • Note that switching the **ROOM 2** input source (as explained in *Multi-room listening* on page 57) also changes the **RECOUT** input source.
• If **RECOUT SOURCE** is selected, changing the input source likewise changes the input source used for your recording.

3 The attenuator isn't available with digital sources, or when using the Stream Direct modes.

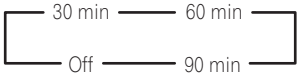
4 • Note that this feature will not work with video sources assigned to either of the HDMI video inputs.
• This feature is not available when watching photos or video content from a connected iPod (see page 49).

Using the sleep timer

The sleep timer switches the receiver into standby after a specified amount of time so you can fall asleep without worrying about the receiver being left on all night. Use the remote control to set the sleep timer.



- **Press SLEEP repeatedly to set the sleep time.**



- You can check the remaining sleep time at any time by pressing **SLEEP** once. Pressing repeatedly will cycle through the sleep options again.[1]

Dimming the display

You can choose between four brightness levels for the front panel display. Note that when selecting sources, the display automatically brightens for a few seconds.



- **Press DIMMER repeatedly to change the brightness of the front panel display.**

Switching the speaker impedance

We recommend using speakers of 8 Ω with this system, but it is possible to switch the impedance setting if you plan to use speakers with a 6 Ω impedance rating. Use the front panel controls to do this.

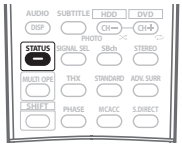
- **With the receiver in standby, press ⏻ STANDBY/ ON while holding down the SPEAKERS button.**

Each time you do this, you switch between the impedance settings:

- **SP 6 OHM** – Use this setting if your speakers are rated at 6 Ω.
- **SP 8 OHM** – Use this setting if your speakers are rated at 8 Ω or more.

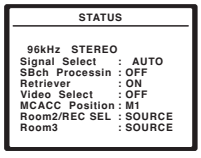
Checking your system settings

Use the status display screen to check your current settings for features such as surround back channel processing and your current MCACC preset.



1 Press STATUS to check the system settings.

These appear on both the OSD and the front panel display.[2]



The front panel display shows each of the following settings for two seconds each:

Input source	**Listening mode**
Signal Select	**Surround Back Processing**
Sound Retriever	**Video Select**
MCACC Position	**Room2 / REC SEL**
Room3	

2 When you're finished, press STATUS again to switch off the display.

Note

1 You can also switch off the sleep timer simply by switching off the receiver.
2 If the Pure Direct mode is switched on, some settings above will show **OFF**, even though they are on.

Resetting the system

Use this procedure to reset all the receiver's settings to the factory default. Use the front panel controls to do this.

1 Switch the receiver into standby.

2 While holding down the front panel AV PARAMETER button, press and hold ⏻ STANDBY/ON for about three seconds.
The display shows **RESET?**.

3 Press the front panel ENTER button.
The display shows **RESET OK?**.

4 Press SETUP to confirm.
OK appears in the display to indicate that the receiver has been reset to the factory default settings.

- Note that all settings will be saved, even if the receiver is unplugged.

Default system settings

Setting		Default
HDMI Audio		Amp
Digital Video Conversion		On
Speakers		A
Surround Back System		Normal (SBch)
Speaker System	Front	SMALL
	Center	SMALL
	Surr.	SMALL
	SB	SMALLx2
	SW	YES
Crossover		80 Hz
Bass Peak Level		OFF
X-Curve		OFF
THX Audio Setting		0.0–0.3 m
Inputs		
See *Input function default and possible settings* on page 64.		
Multi Room		
Room 2 Volume Type		Variable
Room 2 Volume		-60
SR+		
SR+ Control On/Off		OFF
SR+ Volume Control On/Off		OFF
Monitor Out		OFF
DSP		
MCACC Position Memory		M1: MEMORY 1
Surround back channel Processing		ON
Phase Control		On
Sound Delay		0 frame
Sound Retriever		Off
Dual Mono		CH1
DRC		OFF
SACD Gain		0 dB
Digital Safety		OFF
Effect Level	7 ch Stereo	90
	Other modes	50
PL II Music Options	Center Width	3
	Dimension	0
	Panorama	OFF
Neo:6 Options	Center Image	3
All Inputs	Listening Mode (2 ch)	AUTO SURROUND
	Listening Mode (x ch)	AUTO SURROUND
	Listening Mode (HP)	STEREO
See also *Setting the AV options* on page 66 for other default DSP settings.		
MCACC		
Channel level (M1–M6)		0 dB
Speaker Distance (M1–M6)		3.0 m
Standing Wave (M1–M6)	Standing Wave On/Off	ON
	ATT	0 dB
	SWch Wide Trim	0.0
EQ Data (M1–M6)	All channels/bands	0 dB
EQ Wide Trim (M1–M6)		0.0 dB

Chapter 11:
Controlling the rest of your system

Setting the remote to control other components

Most components can be assigned to one of the input source buttons (such as **DVD/LD** or **CD**) using the component's manufacturer preset code stored in the remote.

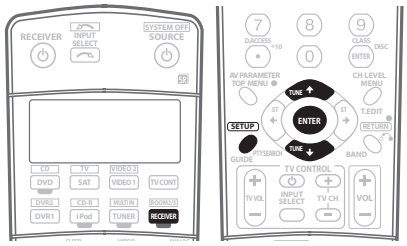
However, there are cases where only certain functions may be controllable after assigning the proper preset code, or the codes for the manufacturer in the remote control will not work for the model that you are using.

If you can't find a preset code that matches the component you want to control, you can still teach the remote individual commands from another remote control (see *Programming signals from other remote controls* below).

Note

- You can cancel or exit any of the steps by pressing **RECEIVER**. To go back a step, press **RETURN**.
- After one minute of inactivity, the remote automatically exits the operation.

Selecting preset codes directly



1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select PRESET then press ENTER.

3 Press the input source button for the component you want to control then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote displays the component you want to control (for example **DVD** or **VIDEO 1**).[1]

4 Use ↑/↓ to select the first letter of the brand name of your component then press ENTER.
This should be the manufacturer's name (for example, **P** for Pioneer).

5 Use ↑/↓ to select the manufacturer's name from the list then press ENTER.

6 Use ↑/↓ to select the proper code from the list, then try using this remote with your component.
The code should start with the component type (for example, **DVD 020**). If there is more than one, start with the first one.[2]

To try out the remote control, switch the component on or off (into standby) by pressing **SOURCE** ⏻. If it doesn't seem to work, select the next code from the list (if there is one).

- If you can't find or properly enter a preset code, you can still teach the remote individual commands from another remote control (see *Programming signals from other remote controls* below).

7 If your component is controlled successfully, press ENTER to confirm.
The remote LCD display shows **OK**.

Programming signals from other remote controls

If the preset code for your component is not available, or the available preset codes do not operate correctly, you can program signals from the remote control of another component. This can also be used to program additional operations (buttons not covered in the presets) after assigning a preset code.[3]

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select LEARNING then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote prompts you for the component you want to control (for example **DVD** or **VIDEO 1**).

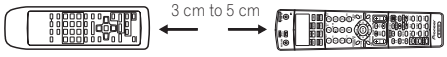
3 Press the input source button for the component you want to control then press ENTER.
PRES KEY shows in the LCD display.[4]

Note

1 You can't assign the **RECEIVER**, **TUNER** or **iPod** buttons.
2 • When using a Pioneer HDD recorder, please select **PIONEER DVR 487**, **488**, **489** or **493**.
• When using a Pioneer plasma display released prior to summer 2005, please select preset codes **600** or **231**.
3 The remote can store about 200 preset codes (this has been tested with codes of Pioneer format only).
4 • You can't assign the **RECEIVER**, **TUNER** or **iPod** buttons.
• **TV CONTROL** buttons (**TV⏻**,**TV VOL +/–**, **TV CH +/–** and **INPUT SELECT**) can only be learned after selecting **TV CONT**.

4 Point the two remote controls towards each other then press the button that will be doing the learning on this receiver's remote control.
PRES KEY starts flashing to indicate the remote is ready to accept a signal.

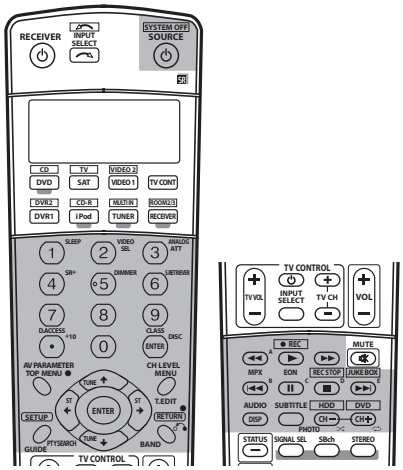
- The remote controls should be 3 cm to 5 cm apart.



5 Press the corresponding button on the other remote control that is sending (teaching) the signal to this receiver's remote control.
For example, if you want to learn the playback control signal, press and hold ► briefly. The LCD display will show **OK** if the operation has been learned.[1]

If for some reasons the operation hasn't been learned the LCD will display **ERROR** briefly and then display **PRES KEY** again. If this happens, keep pressing the (teaching) button as you vary the distance between the two remotes, until the LCD display shows **OK**.[2]

Certain buttons represent operations that cannot be learned from other remote controls.[3] The buttons available are shown below (with the exception of the TV controls, a combination of **SHIFT** and these buttons can also be learned):



6 To program additional signals for the current component repeat steps 4 and 5.
To program signals for another component, exit and repeat steps 1 through 5.

7 Press and hold the RECEIVER button for a couple of seconds to exit and store the operation(s).

Erasing one of the remote control button settings

This erases one of the buttons you have programmed and restores the button to the factory default.

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select ERASE then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote prompts you for the component corresponding to the button setting to be erased.

3 Press the input source button corresponding to the command to be erased then press ENTER.
The LCD display flashes **PRES KEY**.

4 Press and hold the button to be erased for two seconds.
The LCD display shows **OK** or **NO CODE** to confirm the button has been erased.

5 Repeat step 4 to erase other buttons.

6 Press and hold the RECEIVER button for a couple of seconds when you're done.

Resetting the remote control presets

This will erase all preset remote control preset codes and programmed buttons.

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select RESET then press ENTER.
RESET flashes in the LCD display.

3 Press and hold ENTER for about two seconds.
The LCD shows **OK** to confirm the remote presets have been erased.

Confirming preset codes

Use this feature to check which preset code is assigned to an input source button.

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select READ ID then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote prompts you for the input source button you want to check.

3 Press the button of the component for which you want to check the preset code, then press ENTER.
The brand name and preset code appears in the display for three seconds.

Note

1 Note that interference from TVs or other devices will sometimes result in the remote control learning the wrong signal.
2 • Some commands from other remote controls cannot be learned, but in most cases the remotes just need to be moved closer together or farther apart.
• If the remote LCD shows **FULL**, it means the memory is full. See *Erasing one of the remote control button settings* below to erase a programmed button you're not using to free up more memory (note that some signals may take more memory than others).
3 Note that the number key decimal button (**+10**/**D.ACCESS**) may not be learned with some components.

Renaming input source names

You can customize the names that appear on the remote LCD when you select an input source (for example, you could change the name of **DVR 1** to **HDD/DVR**).

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select RENAME then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote prompts you for the button of the input source you want to rename.

3 Press the input source button you want to rename then press ENTER.

4 Use ↑/↓ to select NAME EDT then press ENTER.
To reset the button to its original (default) name, select **NAME RST** above.

5 Edit the name of the input source in the remote control LCD, pressing ENTER when you're finished.
Use ↑/↓ to change the character and ←/→ to move forward/back a position. The name can be up to eight characters (the possible characters are listed below).

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
0123456789 \ / * + – [space]

Direct function

- Default setting: **ON**

You can use the direct function feature to control one component using the remote control while at the same time, using your receiver to playback a different component. This could let you, for example, use the remote control to set up and listen to a CD on the receiver and then use the remote control to rewind a tape in your VCR while you continue to listen to your CD player.

When direct function is on, any component you select (using the input source buttons) will be selected by both the receiver and the remote control. When you turn direct function off, you can operate the remote control without affecting the receiver.[1]

1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select DIRECT F then press ENTER.
The LCD on the remote prompts you for the button of the input source you want to control.

3 Press the input source button for the component you want to control then press ENTER.

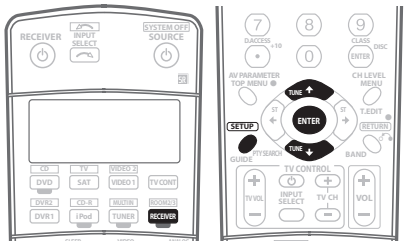
4 Use ↑/↓ to switch direct function ON or OFF then press ENTER.
The LCD shows **OK** to confirm the setting.

Multi Operation and System Off

The Multi Operation feature allows you to program a series of up to 5 commands for the components in your system. For example, you could turn on your TV, turn on your DVD player and start playing the loaded DVD using only two buttons on the remote control.

Similar to multi operations, System Off allows you to use one button to stop and switch off a series of components in your system at the same time.[2]

Programming a multi-operation or a shutdown sequence



1 While pressing the RECEIVER button, press SETUP.
The remote LCD display shows **SETUP**.

2 Use ↑/↓ to select MULTI OP or SYS OFF from the menu and press ENTER.
If you selected Multi Operation (**MULTI OP**), the LCD on the remote prompts you for an input source button.

If you selected System Off (**SYSOFF**), go to step 4.

3 Press the input source button for the component that will start the multi-operation then press ENTER.
For example, if you want to start the sequence by switching on your DVD player, press **DVD**.

4 Use ↑/↓ to select CODE EDT then press ENTER.
To erase any previously stored multi-operations (or shutdown sequences) select **CODE ERS** above.

5 Use ↑/↓ to select a command in the sequence then press ENTER.
If this is the first command in the sequence, select **1ST CODE**. Otherwise, simply choose the next command in the sequence. **PRES KEY** flashes after you press **ENTER**.

6 If necessary, press the input source button for the component whose command you want to input.
This is only necessary if the command is for a new component (input source).

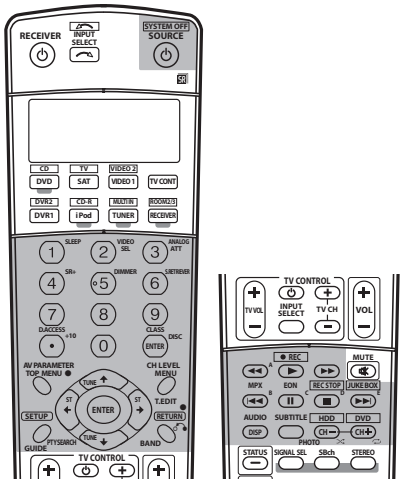
Note

1 You can't use direct function with the **TV CONT** function.

2 • Before Multi Operation and System Off will work correctly, you must setup the remote to work with your TV and other components (see *Setting the remote to control other components* on page 71 for more on this).
• Some units may take some time to power up, in which case multiple operations may not be possible.
• Power on and off commands only work with components that have a standby mode.

7 Select the button for the command you want to input.

The following remote control commands can be selected:



- You don't need to program the receiver to switch on or off. This is done automatically.

With Pioneer components, you don't need to:

- program the power to switch off in a shutdown sequence (except DVD recorders);
- program the power to switch on if it's the source component selected in step 3;
- program a Pioneer TV or monitor to switch on if the input function (selected in step 2) has video input terminals;

These take priority in multi operations (not shutdown).

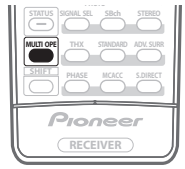
8 Repeat steps 5–7 to program a sequence of up to five commands.

9 When you're finished, use ↑/↓ to select EDITEXIT from the menu and press ENTER.

You will return to the remote control **SETUP** menu. Select *** EXIT *** again to exit.

Using multi operations

You can start multi operations with the receiver switched on, or in standby.



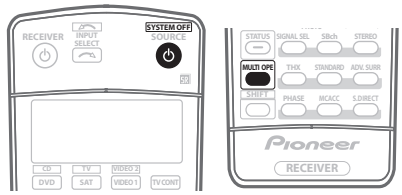
1 Press MULTI OPE.

MULTI OP flashes in the display.

2 Press an input source button that has been set up with a multi operation.

The receiver switches on (if it was in standby) and the programmed multi operation is performed automatically.

Using System off



1 Press MULTI OPE.

MULTI OP flashes in the display.

2 Press SOURCE⏻.

The command sequence you programmed will run, then all Pioneer components will switch off[1], followed by this receiver.

Note

1 In order to avoid accidently switching off a DVD recorder that is currently recording, no DVD recorder power off codes are sent.

Controls for TVs

This remote control can control components after entering the proper codes or teaching the receiver the commands (see *Setting the remote to control other components* on page 71 for more on this). Use the input source buttons to select the component.

- The **TV CONTROL** buttons on the remote control are dedicated to control the TV assigned to the **TV CONT** button. If you have two TVs, assign the main TV to the **TV CONT** button.

Button(s)	Function	Components
TV⏻	Press to switch the component assigned to the **TV CONT** button on or off.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
INPUT SELECT	Switches the TV input. (Not possible with all models.)	TV
TV CH +/–	Selects channels.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
TV VOL +/–	Adjust the TV volume.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
SOURCE⏻	Switches the TV or CATV between standby and on.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
◄◄	Use to choose the 'A' commands on a Satellite TV menu.	Satellite TV
I◄◄	Use to choose the RED/B commands on a Satellite TV/TV menu.	Satellite TV/TV
►►I	Use to choose the CYAN/E commands on a Satellite TV/TV menu.	Satellite TV/TV
II	Use to choose the GREEN/C commands on a Satellite TV/TV menu.	Satellite TV/TV
■	Use to choose the YELLOW/D commands on a Satellite TV/TV menu.	Satellite TV/TV
AUDIO / **DISP**	Use to switch audio tracks.	Satellite TV/TV
SUBTITLE	Use to return to the previously selected channel.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
GUIDE	Use as the **GUIDE** button for navigating.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
	Switches **TEXT OFF** for TVs.	TV
RETURN	Use to select **RETURN** or **EXIT**.	Satellite TV/TV
Number buttons	Use to select a specific TV channel.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
+10 button	Use to add a decimal point when selecting a specific TV channel.	Satellite TV/TV
ENTER/ DISC	Use to enter a channel.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
MENU	Select the menu screen.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
↑/↓/←/→ & **ENTER**	Press to select or adjust and navigate items on the menu screen.	Cable TV/Satellite TV/TV
TOP MENU	Switches **TEXT ON** for TVs.	TV

Controls for other components

This remote control can control these components after entering the proper codes or teaching the receiver the commands (see *Setting the remote to control other components* on page 71 for more on this). Use the input source buttons to select the component.

Button (s)	Function	Components
SOURCE⏻	Press to switch the component between standby and on.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
I◄◄	Press to return to the start of the current track or chapter. Repeated presses skips to the start of previous tracks or chapters.	CD/MD/CD-R/ DVD/LD player
►►I	Press to advance to the start of the next track or chapter. Repeated presses skips to the start of following tracks or chapters.	CD/MD/CD-R/ DVD/LD player
II	Pause playback or recording.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
►	Start playback.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
►►	Hold down for fast forward playback.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
◄◄	Hold down for fast reverse playback.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
■	Stops playback.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/DVD/LD/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
● **REC** (**SHIFT+►**)	Starts recording.	MD/CD-R/VCR/ DVR player/ Cassette deck
REC STOP (**SHIFT+■**)	Stops recording.	DVR player
JUKEBOX (**SHIFT+►►I**)	Switches to the Jukebox feature.	DVR player
Number buttons	Directly access tracks on a program source.	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/LD player
	Use the number buttons to navigate the on-screen display.	DVD/DVR player
+10 button	Selects tracks higher than 10. (For example, press **+10** then **3** to select track 13.)	CD/MD/CD-R/ VCR/LD player
ENTER/ DISC	Chooses the disc.	Multiple CD player
	Use as the **ENTER** button.	VCR/DVD
	Displays the setup screen for DVR players.	DVR player
	Changes sides of the LD.	LD player

Button (s)	Function	Components
TOP MENU	Displays the disc 'top' menu of a DVD player.	DVD/DVR player
MENU	Displays menus concerning the current DVD or DVR you are using.	DVD/DVR player
⬆	Pauses the tape.	Cassette deck
⬇	Stops the tape.	Cassette deck
ENTER	Starts playback.	Cassette deck
⬅/➡	Fast rewinds/fast forwards the tape.	Cassette deck
⬆/⬇/⬅/➡ & **ENTER**	Navigates DVD menu/options.	DVD/DVR player
GUIDE	Press to access the DVD player setup screen.	DVD/DVR player
CH +/–	Selects channels.	VCR/DVD/DVR player
AUDIO	Changes the audio language or channel.	DVD/DVR player
SUBTITLE	Displays/changes the subtitles on multilingual DVDs.	DVD/DVR player
SHIFT +SUBTITLE	Switches to the VCR controls when using a VCR/DVD/HDD recorder.	VCR/DVD/DVR player
HDD (SHIFT + CH–)	Switches to the hard disk controls when using a DVD/HDD recorder.	DVR player
DVD (SHIFT + CH+)	Switches to the DVD controls when using a DVD/HDD recorder.	DVR player

Operating other Pioneer components with this unit's sensor

Many Pioneer components have SR **CONTROL** jacks which can be used to link components together so that you can use just the remote sensor of one component. When you use a remote control, the control signal is passed along the chain to the appropriate component.[1]

Important

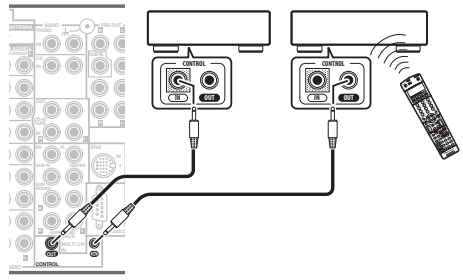
- Note that if you use this feature, *make sure that you also have at least one set of analog audio or video jacks connected* to another component for grounding purposes.

1 Decide which component you want to use the remote sensor of.

When you want to control any component in the chain, this is the remote sensor at which you'll point the corresponding remote control.

2 Connect the CONTROL OUT jack of that component to the CONTROL IN jack of another Pioneer component.

Use a cable with a mono mini-plug on each end for the connection.



3 Continue the chain in the same way for as many components as you have.

Note

1 • If you want to control all your components using this receiver's remote control, refer to *Setting the remote to control other components* on page 71. If you have connected a remote control to the **CONTROL IN** jack (using a mini-plug cable), you won't be able to control this unit using the remote sensor.
• See *Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display* on page 60 if you are connecting a Pioneer plasma display.

Chapter 12:
Additional information

Troubleshooting

Incorrect operations are often mistaken for trouble and malfunctions. If you think that there is something wrong with this component, check the points below. Sometimes the trouble may lie in another component. Investigate the other components and electrical appliances being used. If the trouble cannot be rectified even after exercising the checks listed below, ask your nearest Pioneer authorized independent service company to carry out repair work.

Power

Symptom	Remedy
The power does not turn on.	• Make sure that the power cable is plugged in to an active power outlet. • Try disconnecting from the power outlet, then plugging back in.
The receiver suddenly switches off or the Phase Control indicator blinks.	• Check that there are no loose strands of speaker wire touching the rear panel or another set of wires. If so, re-attach the speaker wires, making sure there are no stray strands. • The receiver may have a serious problem. Disconnect from the power and call a Pioneer authorized independent service company.
During loud playback the power suddenly switches off.	• Turn down the volume. • Lower the 63 Hz and 125 Hz equalizer levels in the *Manual MCACC setup* on page 38. • Try switching on the digital safety feature (put the receiver into standby, hold down the **SETUP** button on the front panel and press ⏻ **STANDBY/ON** to switch between **SAFETY 1** (medium effect), **SAFETY 2** (more effect) and **SAFETY OFF**. If the power switches off even with **SAFETY 2** switched on, turn down the volume. With **SAFETY 1** or **SAFETY 2** on, some features may be unavailable.
The unit does not respond when the buttons are pressed.	• Try switching the receiver off then back on again. • Try disconnecting the power cable, then connect again.
AMP ERR blinks in the display, then the power automatically switches off. The **MCACC** blinks and the power does not turn on.	• The receiver may have a serious problem. Do not try switching the receiver on. Contact a Pioneer authorized independent service company for help.
FAN STOP blinks in the display, then the power automatically switches off.	• Something is obstructing the fan. Remove the obstruction and try switching the receiver back on. If the fan is still not working, or you can't remove the object, unplug the receiver from the wall and call a Pioneer authorized independent service company. • The fan is malfunctioning. Unplug the receiver from the wall and call a Pioneer authorized independent service company.
OVERHEAT blinks in the display then the power automatically switches off.	• Allow the unit to cool down in a well-ventilated place before switching back on. Check the safety precautions on pages 2–3 for information on improving heat dispersal.
The receiver suddenly switches off or **DIGITAL PRECISION PROCESSING** blinks in the display.	• The receiver may have a serious problem. Disconnect from the power and call a Pioneer authorized independent service company.

No sound

Symptom	Remedy
No sound is output when an input source is selected. No sound output from the front speakers.	• Check the volume, mute setting (press **MUTE**) and speaker setting (press **SPEAKERS**). • Make sure the correct input source is selected. • Check that the MCACC setup microphone is disconnected. • Make sure the correct input signal is selected (press **SIGNAL SELECT**). Note that when **PCM** is selected, you won't be able to hear any other signal format. • Check that the source component is connected properly (see *Connecting your equipment* on page 10). • Check that the speakers are connected properly (see *Connecting the speakers* on page 17).
No sound from the surround or center speakers.	• Check that the Stereo listening mode isn't selected; select one of the surround listening modes (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28). • Check that the surround/center speakers are not set to **NO** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45). • Check the channel level settings (see *Channel Level* on page 45). • Check the speaker connections (see *Connecting the speakers* on page 17).
No sound from surround back speakers.	• Check that the surround back speakers are set to **LARGE** or **SMALL** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45). • Make sure surround back processing is set to **SBch ON** (see *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31). • If the source is Dolby Surround EX or DTS ES with no flag to indicate 6.1 compatibility, then with surround back processing set to **SBch Auto**, there will be no sound from the surround back speakers. In this case, set to **SBch ON** (see *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31). • If the source does not have 6.1 playback channels, make sure that surround back processing is set to **SBch ON** and a surround mode is selected (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28). • Check the speaker connections (see *Connecting the speakers* on page 17). If only one surround back speaker is connected, make sure it's connected to the left channel speaker terminal.
No sound from subwoofer.	• Check that the subwoofer is connected properly, switched on and the volume turned up. • If your subwoofer has a sleep function, make sure it is switched off. • Make sure that the Subwoofer setting is **YES** or **PLUS** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45). • The crossover frequency may be set too low; try setting it higher to match the characteristics of your other speakers (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45) • If there is very little low frequency information in the source material, change your speaker settings to Front: **SMALL** / Subwoofer: **YES**, or Front: **LARGE** / Subwoofer: **PLUS** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45). • Check that the LFE channel is not set to –80 dB, or a very quiet setting (see *Bass Peak Level* on page 46). • Check the speaker level settings (see *Channel Level* on page 45).
No sound from one speaker.	• Check the speaker connection (see *Connecting the speakers* on page 17). • Check the speaker level settings (see *Channel Level* on page 45). • Check that the speaker hasn't been set to **NO** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45). • The channel may not be recorded in the source. By using one of the advanced effect listening mode, you may be able to create the missing channel (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28).
Sound is produced from analog components, but not from digital ones (DVD, LD, CD-ROM etc.).	• Check that the input signal type is set to **DIGITAL** (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31). • Make sure that the digital input is assigned correctly for the input jack the component is connected to (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63). • Check the digital output settings on the source component. • If the source component has a digital volume control, make sure this is not turned down. • Make sure that the multichannel analog inputs are not selected. Select any other input source.
No sound is output or a noise is output when Dolby Digital/DTS software is played back.	• Check that your DVD player is compatible with Dolby Digital/DTS discs. • Check the digital output settings of your DVD player. Make sure that the DTS signal output is set to On. • If the source component has a digital volume control, make sure this is not turned down.
No sound when using the System Setup or Status menu.	• If the HDMI input source is selected, sound is muted until exiting either menu. • If sound is muted in the sub room (**ROOM 2**), it will be restored after exiting the System Setup menu.

Other audio problems

Symptom	Remedy
Broadcast stations cannot be selected automatically, or there is considerable noise in radio broadcasts.	*For FM broadcasts* • Fully extend the FM wire antenna, adjust the position for best reception and secure to a wall, etc. • Use an outdoor antenna for better reception (see page 20). *For AM broadcasts* • Adjust the position and direction of the AM antenna. • Use an outdoor antenna for better reception (see page 20). • Noise may be caused by interference from other equipment, such as a fluorescent light, motor, etc. Switch off or move the other equipment, or move the AM antenna.
A multichannel DVD source appears to be downmixed to 2 channels during playback.	• Make sure that the multichannel analog inputs are selected (see *Selecting the multichannel analog inputs* on page 53).
Noise is output when scanning a DTS CD.	• This is not a malfunction of the receiver. The scan function of your player alters the digital information, making it unreadable, resulting in noise being output. Lower the volume when scanning.
When playing a DTS format LD there is audible noise on the soundtrack.	• Make sure that the input signal type is set to **DIGITAL** (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31).
Can't record audio.	• You can only make a digital recording from a digital source, and an analog recording from an analog source. • For digital sources, make sure that what you're recording isn't copy protected. • Check that the **OUT** jacks are properly connected to the recorders input jacks (see *Connecting analog audio sources* on page 16).
Recorded audio is different from the current source, or inaudible.	• The **RECOUT** source is set to an input source other than the source you're listening to. Select **RECOUT SOURCE** to record the current input source (see *Playing a different source when recording* on page 68).
Subwoofer output is very low.	• To route more signal to the subwoofer, set it to **PLUS** or set the front speakers to **SMALL** (see *Speaker Setting* on page 45).
Everything seems to be set up correctly, but the playback sound is odd.	• The speakers may be out of phase. Check that the positive/negative speaker terminals on the receiver are matched with the corresponding terminals on the speakers (see *Connecting the speakers* on page 17).
The **PHASE CONTROL** feature doesn't seem to have an audible effect.	• If applicable, check that the lowpass filter switch on your subwoofer is off, or the lowpass cutoff is set to the highest frequency setting. If there is a **PHASE** setting on your subwoofer, set it to 0° (or depending on the subwoofer, the setting where you think it has the best overall effect on the sound). • Make sure the speaker distance setting is correct for all speakers (see *Speaker Distance* on page 46).
Noise or hum can be heard even when there is no sound being input.	• Check that personal computers or other digital components connected to the same power source are not causing interference.
There seems to be a time lag between the speakers and the output of the subwoofer.	• See *Automatically setting up for surround sound (MCACC)* on page 7 to set up your system again using MCACC (this will automatically compensate for a delay in the subwoofer output).
The maximum volume available (shown in the front panel display) is lower than the **+12dB** maximum.	• This is not a malfunction. If the levels in *Channel Level* on page 45 have been adjusted, the maximum volume will change accordingly.

Video

Symptom	Remedy
No image is output when an input is selected.	• Check the video connections of the source component (see page 13). • For high-definition video (using component video connections), or when digital video conversion is switched off (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66), you must connect your TV to this receiver using the same type of video cable as you used to connect your video component. • Make sure the input assignment is correct for components connected using component or S-video cables (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63). • A separate video source has been selected using **VIDEO SELECT** (see *Watching video and audio sources independently* on page 68). • Check the video output settings of the source component. • Check that the video input you selected on your TV is correct. • Some components (such as video game units) have resolutions that may not be converted. If adjusting this receiver's Resolution setting (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66) and/or the resolution settings on your component or display doesn't work, try switching Digital Video Conversion (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66) **OFF**.
Can't record video.	• Check that the source is not copy-protected. • The video converter is not available when making recordings. Check that the same type of video cable is used for connecting both the recorder and the video source (the one you want to record) to this receiver.

Settings

Symptom	Remedy
The Auto MCACC Setup continually shows an error.	• The ambient noise level may be too high. Keep the noise level in the room as low as possible (see also *Problems when using the Auto MCACC Setup* on page 9). If the noise level cannot be kept low enough, you will have to set up the surround sound manually (page 44).
After using the Auto MCACC Setup, the speaker size setting is incorrect.	• There may have been some low frequency noise in the room from an air-conditioner, motor, etc. Switch off all other appliances in the room and use Auto MCACC Setup again. • Depending on a number of factors (room size, speaker placement, etc.) this may occur in some cases. Change the speaker setting manually in *Speaker Setting* on page 45, and use the **ALL (Keep SPsetting)** option for the **Auto Mode** in *Automatic MCACC (Expert)* on page 35 if this is a recurring problem.
Can't adjust the Fine Speaker Distance setting (page 39) properly.	• Check that the speakers are all in phase (make sure the positive (**+**) and negative (**–**) terminals are matched up properly).
The display shows **KEY LOCK ON** when you try to make settings.	• With the receiver in standby, press ⏻ **STANDBY/ON** while holding down the **MULTI-ROOM&SOURCE CONTROL** button to disable the key lock.
Most recent settings have been erased.	• The power cord was disconnected from the wall while adjusting this setting.

Professional Calibration EQ graphical output

Symptom	Remedy
The EQ response displayed in the graphical output following calibration does not appear entirely flat.	• There are cases where the graph does not appear flat (even when selecting **ALL CH ADJUST** in the Auto MCACC Setup) due to adjustments made to compensate for room characteristics to achieve optimal sound. • Areas of the graph may appear identical (before and after) when there is little or no adjustment needed. • The graph may appear to have shifted vertically when comparing before and after measurements.
EQ adjustments made using the *Manual MCACC setup* on page 38 do not appear to change the graphical output.	• Despite level adjustments being made, the filters used for analysis may not display these adjustments in the graphical output. However, these adjustments are taken this into account by the filters dedicated to overall system calibration.
Lower frequency response curves do not seem to have been calibrated for **SMALL** speakers.	• Low frequencies used in bass management (the subwoofer channel) will not change for speakers that have been specified as **SMALL** in the configuration, or do not output these frequencies. • Calibration is performed, but due to your speakers' low frequency limitations, no measurable sound is output for display.
Graphical output data seems to have disappeared.	• If the power is switched off, the measurement data for graphical output to a PC is cleared.

Display

Symptom	Remedy
The display is dark or off.	• Press **DIMMER** on the remote control repeatedly to select a different brightness.
After making an adjustment the display goes off.	• Press **DIMMER** on the remote control repeatedly to select a different brightness.
You can't get **DIGITAL** to display when using the **SIGNAL SELECT** button.	• Check the digital connections and make sure that the digital inputs are assigned correctly (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63). • If the multichannel analog inputs are selected, select a different input source.
The Dolby/DTS indicator doesn't light when playing Dolby/DTS software.	• These indicators do dot light if playback is paused. • Check the playback (especially the digital output) settings of the source component.
When playing a DVD-Audio disc, the DVD player display shows **96 kHz**. However, the receiver's display does not.	• This is not a malfunction. 96 kHz audio from DVD-Audio discs is only output from the analog outputs of the DVD player. This receiver cannot show the playback sample rate when using the analog inputs.
During playback of a DTS 96/24 source, the display doesn't show **96 kHz**.	• Make sure that the receiver is set to **AUTO** or **DIGITAL** (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31).
When playing Dolby Digital or DTS sources, the receiver's format indicators do not light.	• Check that the player is connected using a digital connection. • Make sure that the receiver is set to **AUTO** or **DIGITAL** (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31). • Check that the player isn't set up so that Dolby Digital and DTS sources are converted to PCM. • Ensure that if there are several audio tracks on the disc, the Dolby Digital or DTS is selected.
When playing certain discs, none of the receiver's format indicators light.	• The disc may not contain 5.1/6.1 channel material. Check the disc packaging for more on what audio tracks are recorded on the disc.
When playing a disc, the **DD PL II** or **Neo:6** indicator lights on the receiver.	• Make sure that the receiver is set to **AUTO** or **DIGITAL** (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31). • If a two channel soundtrack is currently playing (including Dolby Surround encoded), then this is not a malfunction. Check the disc packaging for details about the audio tracks available.
During playback of a Surround EX or DTS ES source on the **SBch AUTO** setting, the **EX** and **ES** indicators don't light, or the signal is not properly processed.	•The source may be Dolby Surround EX / DTS ES software, but it has no flag to indicate it is 6.1 compatible. Set to **SBch ON** (see *Using surround back channel processing* on page 31) then switch to the THX Surround EX or Standard EX listening mode (see *Listening in surround sound* on page 28).
During playback of DVD-Audio, the display shows **PCM**.	•This will occur when playing DVD-Audio material over the HDMI connection. This is not a malfunction.

Remote control

Symptom	Remedy
Cannot be remote controlled.	• Try replacing the batteries in the remote control (see *Loading the batteries* on page 6). • Be sure to operate within 7 meters and a 30° angle of the remote sensor on the front panel (see *Operating range of remote control unit* on page 23). • Check that there are no obstacles between the receiver and the remote control. • Make sure that there is no fluorescent or other strong light shining on to the remote sensor. • Check the connections of the **CONTROL IN** jack (see *Operating other Pioneer components with this unit's sensor* on page 76).
Other components can't be operated with the system remote.	• If the battery ran down, the preset codes may have been cleared. Re-enter the preset codes. • The preset code may be incorrect. Redo the procedure for entering preset codes.
The SR cable is connected, but the connected components can't be operated with the remote.	• Reinsert the SR cable, making sure it's connected to the right jack (see *Using this receiver with a Pioneer plasma display* on page 60). • Make sure that there is an analog connection between the units. This is necessary for the SR feature to work. • Check that the other component is made by Pioneer. The SR feature only works with Pioneer equipment.

i.LINK interface

Symptom	Remedy
No sound is output.	• Check that the source player is compatible with i.LINK audio. • Check the output settings of the source player. • Make sure that **i.LINK** or **AUTO** is selected using the **SIGNAL SELECT** button (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31).
The i.LINK indicator does not light up even when an i.LINK-equipped component is selected.	• Make sure that **i.LINK** or **AUTO** is selected using the **SIGNAL SELECT** button (see *Choosing the input signal* on page 31). • Check the i.LINK connections; use an i.LINK cable of less than 3.5 m. • Check that the source components conforms to the i.LINK Audio format. • Make sure that all components connected between the receiver and the source are switched on.
PQLS OFF or **PQLS ON** is displayed temporarily on your player and the sound output is discontinued.	• During playback through an i.LINK connection, if you change the settings for other i.LINK components, the sound will be discontinued momentarily. This is not a malfunction.
The program format indicators don't disappear when SACD playback stops.	• The program format indicators remain lit until another format source is input. This is not a malfunction.
You can't get i.LINK to display when using the **SIGNAL SELECT** button.	• Make sure your i.LINK source components are switched on. • Check that i.LINK is assigned correctly (see *The Input Setup menu* on page 63).
After upgrading a component, it is not recognized and cannot be selected using the i.LINK connection.	• You may need to reset the i.LINK database memory in the receiver (use the front panel): With the receiver in standby, press ⏻ **STANDBY/ON** while holding down **RETURN**. When you see **DB CLEAR?** appear in the display, press **ENTER**, then **SETUP** again to confirm. When you've reset the i.LINK database memory, **DB CLEAR SET** shows in the display. If **DB ERROR** is displayed, step through the procedure again.

i.LINK messages

You may see the following messages displayed in the front panel display when using the i.LINK interface.

Message	Explanation
BUS FULL	The i.LINK bus has reached its capacity and cannot transmit any more data.
CANNOT LINK 1	The connection between the receiver and the selected i.LINK-equipped component is unstable. If the i.LINK cables appear to be connected properly and both the receiver and i.LINK-equipped component are on, switch both units off, then on again to re-establish the connection between them.
CANNOT LINK 2	The receiver can't identify the selected i.LINK-equipped component. For example, the receiver may not be able to identify an i.LINK-equipped personal computer.
LINK CHECK	The receiver is checking the i.LINK network. It does this when components are added to, or removed from the network. The sound may be interrupted if this happens during playback.
LOOP CONNECT	The i.LINK network cannot function because the connected components form a loop. See *Creating an i.LINK network* on page 52 for more on this.
NO NAME	When an i.LINK-equipped component has no name, this message is displayed instead of the proper component name.
NO SIGNAL	A component is outputting an i.LINK signal that the receiver cannot reproduce. This receiver can only reproduce signals from i.LINK-Audio-equipped components. See *About i.LINK* on page 52 for more on this.
PQLS OFF	This is displayed on a playback component when PQLS turns off during playback. The sound may be interrupted momentarily when this happens.
PQLS ON	This is displayed on a playback component when PQLS turns on during playback. The sound may be interrupted momentarily when this happens.
UNKNOWN	When an i.LINK-equipped component name cannot be recognized, this message is displayed instead of the proper component name.

USB interface

Symptom	Remedy
No sound.	• Make sure you have set up your computer system to output through the USB interface (see *Using the USB interface* on page 54). • Make sure your computers output level is turned up. • Update to a more recent version of your software, try a different audio program, or try a different source.

HDMI

Symptom	Remedy
The HDMI indicator blinks continuously.	• Check all the points below.
No picture or sound.	• This receiver is HDCP-compatible. Check that the components you are connecting are also HDCP-compatible. If they are not, please connect them using the component, S-video or composite video jacks. • Depending on the connected source component, it's possible that it will not work with this receiver (even if it is HDCP-compatible). In this case, connect using the component, S-video or composit video jacks between source and receiver. • If the problem still persists when connecting your HDMI component directly to your monitor, please consult the component or monitor manual or contact the manufacturer for support.
No picture.	• Try changing the Resolution setting (in *Setting the AV options* on page 66).
No sound, or sound suddenly ceases.	• Check that the HDMI AV setting is set to **AMP/THROUGH**. • If the component is a DVI device, use a separate connection for the audio. • If analog video is being output over HDMI then there will be no HDMI audio output. Please use a separate connection for the audio. • Check the audio output settings of the source component.
Noisy or distorted picture.	• Sometimes a video deck may output a noisy video signal (during scanning, for example), or the video quality may just be poor (with some video game units, for example). The picture quality may also depend on the settings, etc. of your display device. Switch off the video converter and reconnect the source and display device using the same type of connection (component, S-video or composite), then start playback again. • If the problem still persists when connecting your HDMI component directly to your monitor, please consult the component or monitor manual or contact the manufacturer for support.

iPod messages

Symptom	Cause	Action
Error I1	There is a problem with the signal path from the iPod to the receiver.	Switch off the receiver and reconnect the iPod to the receiver. If this doesn't seem to work, try resetting your iPod.
Error I2	The software version being used with the iPod needs to be updated.	Update the software being used with the iPod (software versions prior to iPod update 2004-10-20 are not supported).
No Track	There are no playable songs currently stored in the iPod.	Input some music files compatible with iPod playback.

Note

- If the unit does not operate normally due to external effects such as static electricity disconnect the power plug from the outlet and insert again to return to normal operating conditions.

Surround sound formats

Below is a brief description of the main surround sound formats you'll find on DVDs, satellite, cable and terrestrial broadcasts, and video cassettes.

Dolby

The Dolby technologies are explained below. See www.dolby.com for more detailed information.

Dolby Digital

Dolby Digital is a multichannel digital audio coding system widely used in cinemas, and in the home for DVD and digital broadcast soundtracks. It can deliver up to six discrete audio channels, comprising five full range channels and a special LFE (low frequency effects) channel used mainly for deep, rumbling sound effects; hence the term "5.1-channel" Dolby Digital.

In addition to the format features above, Dolby Digital decoders offer downmixing for compatibility with mono, stereo and Dolby Pro Logic audio from a number of bit rates and channels. Another feature, called Dialog Normalization, attenuates programs based on the average level of dialog in a program relative to its peak level (also known as Dialnorm) in order to achieve uniform playback level.

Dolby Digital Surround EX

Dolby Digital Surround EX (the EX stands for EXtended) is an extension of Dolby Digital encoding whereby a surround back channel is matrixed into the surround left/right channels for 6.1 channel playback. This allows for compatibility with Dolby Digital 5.1 channel decoding, as well as for decoding using Dolby Digital EX.

Dolby Pro Logic IIx and Dolby Surround

Dolby Pro Logic IIx is an improved version of the Dolby Pro Logic II (and Dolby Pro Logic) *decoding* system. Using the innovative "steering logic" circuit, this system extracts surround sound from sources as follows:

- **Dolby Pro Logic** – 4.1 channel sound (mono surround) from any stereo source
- **Dolby Pro Logic II** – 5.1 channel sound (stereo surround) from any stereo source
- **Dolby Pro Logic IIx** – 6.1 or 7.1 channel sound (stereo surround and surround back) from two channel or 5.1(and 6.1) channel sources

With two channel sources, the ".1" subwoofer channel is generated by bass management in the receiver.

Dolby Surround is an *encoding* system which embeds surround sound information within a stereo soundtrack, which a Dolby Pro Logic decoder can then use for enhanced surround listening with greater sound detail.

Manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories. "Dolby", "Pro Logic", "Surround EX", and the double-D symbol are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories.

DTS

The DTS technologies are explained below. See www.dtstech.com for more detailed information.

DTS Digital Surround

DTS Digital Surround is a 5.1-channel audio coding system from Digital Theater Systems Inc. now widely used for DVD-Video, DVD-Audio, 5.1 music discs, digital broadcasts, and video games. It can deliver up to six discrete audio channels, comprising five full range channels, including an LFE channel. Higher sound quality is achieved through the use of a low compression rate, and high rates of transmittance during playback.

DTS-ES

DTS-ES (the ES stands for Extended Surround) is a decoder that is capable of decoding both DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 and DTS-ES Matrix 6.1 encoded sources. DTS-ES Discrete 6.1 gives 'true' 6.1 channel sound, with a completely separate (discrete) surround back channel. DTS-ES Matrix 6.1 has a surround back channel matrixed into the surround left/right channels. Both sources are also compatible with a conventional DTS 5.1 channel decoder.

DTS Neo:6

DTS Neo:6 can generate 6.1 channel surround sound from any matrixed stereo source (such as video or TV) and from 5.1 channel sources. It uses both the channel information already encoded into the source, as well as its own processing to determine channel localization (with two channel sources, the ".1" subwoofer channel is generated by bass management in the receiver). Two modes (Cinema and Music) are available using DTS Neo:6 with two channel sources.

DTS 96/24

DTS 96/24 is an extension of the original DTS Digital Surround which offers high quality 96 kHz/24-bit audio using a DTS 96/24 decoder. This format is also fully backward compatible with all existing decoders. This means that DVD players can play this software using a conventional DTS 5.1 channel decoder.

"DTS", "DTS-ES", "Neo:6" and "DTS 96/24" are trademarks of Digital Theater Systems, Inc.

Windows Media® Audio 9 Professional

Windows Media® Audio 9 Professional (WMA9 Pro) is a discrete surround format developed by Microsoft Corporation.



WMA9 Pro can support up to 5.1/7.1 channel playback with sampling rates up to 24-bit/96 kHz. Using the unique WMA compression techniques, WMA9 Pro can deliver multichannel music and soundtracks over high-speed internet networks at low bit rates with minimal audio degradation. Playback may be enjoyed with the Windows Media® Player 9 Series (or above) and other third-party media players on a personal computer, or with an AV amplifier with on-board WMA9 Pro decoding.

Windows Media® and the Windows logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

About THX

The THX technologies are explained below. See www.thx.com for more detailed information.



- **THX Cinema processing**

THX is an exclusive set of standards and technologies established by THX Ltd. THX grew from George Lucas' personal desire to make your experience of the film soundtrack, in both movie theatres and in your home theatre, as faithful as possible to what the director intended. Movie soundtracks are mixed in special movie theatres called dubbing stages and are designed to be played back in movie theatres with similar equipment and conditions. This same soundtrack is then transferred directly onto Laserdisc, VHS tape, DVD, etc., and is not changed for playback in a small home theatre environment. THX engineers developed patented technologies to accurately translate the sound from the movie theatre environment into the home, correcting the tonal and spatial errors that occur. On this product, when the THX indicator is on, THX features are automatically added in Cinema modes (e.g. THX Cinema, THX Surround EX).

- **Re-Equalization**

The tonal balance of a film soundtrack will be excessively bright and harsh when played back over audio equipment in the home because film soundtracks were designed to be played back in large movie theaters using very different professional equipment. Re-Equalization restores the correct tonal balance for watching a movie soundtrack in a small home environment.

- **Timbre Matching**

The human ear changes our perception of a sound depending on the direction from which the sound is coming. In a movie theatre, there is an array of surround speakers so that the surround information is all around you. In a home theatre, you use only two speakers located to the side of your head. The Timbre Matching feature filters the information going to the surround speakers so that they more closely match the tonal characteristics of the sound coming from the front speakers. This ensures seamless panning between the front and surround speakers.

- **Adaptive Decorrelation**

In a movie theatre, a large number of surround speakers help create an enveloping surround sound experience, but in a home theatre there are usually only two speakers. This can make the surround speakers sound like headphones that lack spaciousness and envelopment. The surround sounds will also collapse into the closest speaker as you move away from the middle seating position. Adaptive Decorrelation slightly changes one surround channel's time and phase relationship with respect to the other surround channel. This expands the listening position and creates—with only two speakers—the same spacious surround experience as in a movie theatre.

- **THX Select2**

Before any home theatre component can be THX Select2 certified, it must incorporate all the features above and also pass a rigorous series of quality and performance tests. Only then can a product feature the THX Select2 logo, which is your guarantee that the Home Theatre products you purchase will give you superb performance for many years to come. THX Select2 requirements cover every aspect of the product including pre-amplifier and power amplifier performance and operation, and hundreds of other parameters in both the digital and analog domain.

- **THX Surround EX**

THX Surround EX - Dolby Digital Surround EX is a joint development of Dolby Laboratories and the THX Ltd. In a movie theater, film soundtracks that have been encoded with Dolby Digital Surround EX technology are able to reproduce an extra channel which has been added during the mixing of the program. This channel, called Surround Back, places sounds behind the listener in addition to the currently available front left, front center, front right, surround right, surround left and subwoofer channels. This additional channel provides the opportunity for more detailed imaging behind the listener and brings more depth, spacious ambience and sound localization than ever before. Movies that were created using the Dolby Digital Surround EX technology, when released into the home consumer market may exhibit wording to that effect on the packaging. A list of movies created using this technology can be found on the Dolby web site at www.dolby.com.
Only receiver and controller products bearing the THX Surround EX logo, when in the THX Surround EX mode, faithfully reproduce this new technology in the home.
This product may also engage the “THX Surround EX” mode during the playback of 5.1 channel material that is not Dolby Digital Surround EX encoded. In such case the information delivered to the Surround Back channel will be program dependent and may or may not be very pleasing depending on the particular soundtrack and the tastes of the individual listener.

- **Advanced Speaker Array (ASA)**

ASA is a proprietary THX technology which processes the sound fed to 2 side and 2 back surround speakers to provide the optimal surround sound experience. When you set up your home theater system using all eight speaker outputs (Left, Center, Right, Surround Right, Surround Back Right, Surround Back Left, Surround Left and Subwoofer) placing the two Surround Back speakers close together facing the front of the room as shown in the diagram will provide the largest sweet spot. If for practical reasons you have to place the Surround Back speakers apart, you will need to go THX Audio Set-up screen and choose the setting that most closely corresponds to the speaker spacing, which will re-optimize the surround sound-field. ASA is used in three new modes; THX Select2 Cinema, THX MusicMode and THX Games Mode.

- **THX Select2 Cinema mode**

THX Select2 Cinema mode plays 5.1 movies using all 8 speakers giving you the best possible movie watching experience. In this mode,

ASA processing blends the side surround speakers and back surround speakers providing the optimal mix of ambient and directional surround sounds.
DTS-ES (Matrix and 6.1 Discrete) and Dolby Digital Surround EX encoded soundtracks will be automatically detected in Select2 Cinema mode if the appropriate flag has been encoded.
Some Dolby Digital Surround EX soundtracks are missing the digital flag that allows automatic switching. If you know that the movie that you are watching is encoded in Surround EX, you can manually select the THX Surround EX playback mode, otherwise THX Select2 Cinema mode will apply ASA processing to provide optimum replay.

- **THX MusicMode**

For the replay of multi-channel music the THX MusicMode should be selected. In this mode THX ASA processing is applied to the surround channels of all 5.1 encoded music sources such as DTS, Dolby Digital and DVD-Audio to provide a wide stable rear soundstage.

- **THX Games Mode**

For the replay of stereo and multi-channel game audio the THX Games Mode should be selected. In this mode THX ASA processing is applied to the surround channels of all 5.1 and 2.0 encoded game sources such as analog, PCM, DTS and Dolby Digital. This accurately places all game audio surround information, providing a full 360 degree playback environment. THX Games Mode is unique as it gives you a smooth transition of audio in all points of the surround field.

The THX logo is a trademark of THX Ltd. which may be registered in some jurisdictions. All rights reserved.

Listening modes with different input signal formats

The following charts outline the listening modes available with different input signal formats, depending on the surround back channel processing and decoding method you have selected.

Stereo (2 channel) signal formats

SBch Processing	Input signal format	Standard	THX	Auto Surround
SBch Processing ON/AUTO (Automatically selects 6.1/7.1 channel decoding)	Dolby Digital Surround	**Pro Logic IIx MOVIE** **Pro Logic IIx MUSIC** **Pro Logic IIx GAME** **PRO LOGIC**[a] **Neo:6 CINEMA** **Neo:6 MUSIC**	**Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX** **PRO LOGIC+THX**[a] **Neo:6 CINEMA+THX** **THX GAMES MODE**[b]	**Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**
	DTS Surround	*As above*	*As above*	**Neo:6 CINEMA**
	Other stereo sources	*As above*	*As above*	Stereo playback
	DVD-A and SACD[c]	*As above*	–	Stereo playback
SBch Processing OFF (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	Dolby Digital Surround	**Pro Logic II MOVIE** **Pro Logic II MUSIC** **Pro Logic II GAME** **PRO LOGIC**[a] **Neo:6 CINEMA** **Neo:6 MUSIC**	**Pro Logic II MOVIE+THX** **PRO LOGIC+THX**[a] **Neo:6 CINEMA+THX**	**Pro Logic II MOVIE**
	DTS Surround	*As above*	*As above*	**Neo:6 CINEMA**
	Other stereo sources	*As above*	*As above*	Stereo playback
	DVD-A and SACD[c]	*As above*	–	Stereo playback

a. **PRO LOGIC** has a maximum of 5.1 channel playback.
b. Unavailable with only one surround back speaker connected.
c. VSX-AX4ASi only.

Multichannel signal formats

SBch Processing	Input signal format	Standard	THX	Auto Surround
SBch Processing ON (7.1 channel decoding used for all sources)	WMA9 Pro (6.1/7.1 channel)	Straight decoding	**WMA+THX CINEMA**	Straight decoding
	Dolby Digital EX (6.1 channel flagged)	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a] **Pro Logic IIx MUSIC**	**THX SURROUND EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**[a] **THX Select2 CINEMA**[a] **THX MUSICMODE**[a] **THX GAMES MODE**[a]	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]
	DTS-ES (6.1 channel sources/6.1 channel flagged)	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete) **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a] **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MUSIC**	**DTS-ES+THX** (Matrix/Discrete) **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**[a] **THX Select2 CINEMA**[a] **THX MUSICMODE**[a] **THX GAMES MODE**[a]	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete)
	DTS and DTS 96/24 (5.1 channel encoding)	**DTS+Neo:6** **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a] **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MUSIC**	**DTS+Neo:6+THX** **DTS+ Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**[a] **THX Select2 CINEMA**[a] **THX MUSICMODE**[a] **THX GAMES MODE**[a]	**DTS+Neo:6**
	Dolby Digital WMA9 Pro (5.1 channel encoding)	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a] **Pro Logic IIx MUSIC**	**THX SURROUND EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE+THX**[a] **THX Select2 CINEMA**[a] **THX MUSICMODE**[a] **THX GAMES MODE**[a]	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]
	DVD-A and SACD[b] (5.1 channel encoding)	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a] **Pro Logic IIx MUSIC**	**THX MUSICMODE**[a]	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]
SBch Processing AUTO (Automatically selects 6.1/7.1 channel decoding)	WMA9 Pro (6.1/7.1 channel)	Straight decoding	**WMA+THX CINEMA**	Straight decoding
	Dolby Digital EX (6.1 channel flagged)	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]	**THX SURROUND EX**	**Dolby Digital EX** **Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]
	DTS-ES (6.1 channel sources/6.1 channel flagged)	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete)	**DTS-ES+THX** (Matrix/Discrete)	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete)
	Dolby Digital DTS and DTS 96/24 WMA9 Pro (5.1 channel encoding)	Straight decoding (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	**THX Select2 CINEMA** (Maximum 5.1 channel **THX CINEMA** playback with only one surround back speaker)	Straight decoding (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)
	DVD-A and SACD[b] (5.1 channel encoding)	Straight decoding (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	**THX MUSICMODE**[a]	Straight decoding (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)
SBch Processing OFF[c] (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	WMA9 Pro (6.1/7.1 channel)	Straight decoding	**THX CINEMA**	Straight decoding
	Dolby Digital EX (6.1 channel flagged) DTS-ES (6.1 channel sources/6.1 channel flagged)			
	Dolby Digital DTS and DTS 96/24 WMA9 Pro (5.1 channel encoding)			
	DVD-A and SACD[b] (5.1 channel encoding)	Straight decoding	–	Straight decoding

a. Unavailable with only one surround back speaker connected.
b. VSX-AX4ASi only.
c. Automatically selected if no surround back speakers are connected.

Stream direct with different input signal formats

The following charts show what you will hear with different input signal formats, depending on the Stream Direct mode (see *Using Stream Direct* on page 30) you have selected.

Stereo (2 channel) signal formats

Surround Back speaker(s)	Input signal format	DIRECT	PURE DIRECT
Connected (Maximum 7.1 channel playback)	Dolby Digital Surround	**DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**	**DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**
	DTS Surround	**Neo:6 CINEMA**	**Neo:6 CINEMA**
	Other stereo sources	Stereo playback	Stereo playback
	Analog sources	*As above*	ANALOG DIRECT (stereo)
	PCM sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT (stereo)
	DVD-A sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT (stereo)
	SACD sources[a]	*As above*	SACD DIRECT (stereo)
Not connected (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	Dolby Digital Surround	**DD Pro Logic II MOVIE**	**DD Pro Logic II MOVIE**
	DTS Surround	**Neo:6 CINEMA**	**Neo:6 CINEMA**
	Other stereo sources	Stereo playback	Stereo playback
	Analog sources	*As above*	ANALOG DIRECT (stereo)
	PCM sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT (stereo)
	DVD-A sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT (stereo)
	SACD sources[a]	*As above*	SACD DIRECT (stereo)

a. VSX-AX4ASi only.

Multichannel signal formats

Surround Back speaker(s)	Input signal format	DIRECT	PURE DIRECT
Connected (Maximum 7.1 channel playback)	WMA9 Pro (6.1/7.1 channel)	Straight decoding	Straight decoding
	Dolby Digital EX (6.1 channel flagged)	**Dolby Digital EX DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]	**Dolby Digital EX DD Pro Logic IIx MOVIE**[a]
	DTS-ES (6.1 channel sources/6.1 channel flagged)	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete)	**DTS-ES** (Matrix/Discrete)
	Dolby Digital DTS and DTS 96/24 WMA9 Pro (5.1 channel encoding)	Straight decoding	Straight decoding
	DVD-A sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT
	SACD sources[b] (5.1 channel encoding)	*As above*	SACD DIRECT
Not connected (Maximum 5.1 channel playback)	WMA9 Pro (6.1/7.1 channel)	Straight decoding	Straight decoding
	Dolby Digital EX (6.1 channel flagged)	*As above*	*As above*
	DTS-ES (6.1 channel sources/6.1 channel flagged)	*As above*	*As above*
	Dolby Digital DTS and DTS 96/24 WMA9 Pro (5.1 channel encoding)	*As above*	*As above*
	DVD-A sources	*As above*	PCM DIRECT
	SACD sources[b] (5.1 channel encoding)	*As above*	SACD DIRECT

a. Unavailable with only one surround back speaker connected.
b. VSX-AX4ASi only.

Specifications

Amplifier Section

Maximum Output Power (1 kHz, THD 10.0 %, 6 Ω)
. 270 W/channel (AX4ASi), 250 W/channel (AX2AS)

Continuous Power Output

(DIN 1 kHz, THD 1 %, 6 Ω)

Front. . .180 W + 180 W (AX4ASi), 170 W + 170 W (AX2AS)
Center 180 W (AX4ASi), 170 W (AX2AS)
Surround 180 W + 180 W (AX4ASi)
170 W + 170 W (AX2AS)
Surround back 180 W + 180 W (AX4ASi)
170 W + 170 W (AX2AS)

(DIN 1 kHz, THD 1 %, 8 Ω)

Front. . .150 W + 150 W (AX4ASi), 140 W + 140 W (AX2AS)
Center 150 W (AX4ASi), 140 W (AX2AS)
Surround 150 W + 150 W (AX4ASi)
140 W + 140 W (AX2AS)
Surround back 150 W + 150 W (AX4ASi)
140 W + 140 W (AX2AS)

Rated Power Output (20 Hz to 20 kHz, 0.09 %, 8 Ω)
. 140 W+140 W (AX4ASi), 130 W+130 W (AX2AS)

Audio Section

Input (Sensitivity/Impedance)
LINE. 335 mV/47 kΩ
Frequency Response (LINE). 5 Hz to 100 000 Hz $^{+0}_{-3}$ dB
Output (Level/Impedance)
REC 335 mV/2.2 kΩ
Tone Control
BASS± 6 dB (100 Hz)
TREBLE± 6 dB (10 kHz)
LOUDNESS.+4 dB/+2 dB (100 Hz/10 kHz)
(at volume position –40 dB)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (IHF, short circuited, A network)
LINE. 103 dB
Signal-to-Noise Ratio
[DIN (continuous rated power output/50 mW)]
LINE. 92 dB/65 dB

Composite Video / S-Video Section

Input (Sensitivity/Impedance) 1 Vp-p/75 Ω
Output (Level/Impedance) 1 Vp-p/75 Ω
Signal-to-Noise Ratio 65 dB
Frequency Response 5 Hz to 10 MHz

Component Video Section

Input (Sensitivity/Impedance) 1 Vp-p/75 Ω
Output (Level/Impedance) 1 Vp-p/75 Ω
Signal-to-Noise Ratio 65 dB
Frequency Response 5 Hz to 100 MHz

FM Tuner Section

Frequency Range 87.5 MHz to 108 MHz
Usable Sensitivity Mono: 15.2 dBf, IHF (1.6 μV/75 Ω)
50 dB Quieting Sensitivity Mono: 20.2 dBf
Stereo: 41.2 dBf
Sensitivity (DIN) Mono: 1.1 μV (S/N 26 dB)
Stereo: 50 μV (S/N 46 dB)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio Mono: 76 dB (at 85 dBf)
Stereo: 72 dB (at 85 dBf)
Signal-to-Noise Ratio (DIN). Mono: 62 dB
Stereo: 58 dB
Distortion Stereo: 0.6 % (1 kHz)
Alternate Channel Selectivity 70 dB (400 kHz)
Stereo Separation 40 dB (1 kHz)
Frequency Response 30 Hz to 15 kHz ± 1dB
Antenna Input 75 Ω unbalanced

AM Tuner Section

Frequency Range 531 kHz to 1602 kHz (9 kHz step)
Sensitivity (IHF, Loop antenna) 350 μV/m
Selectivity 30 dB
Signal-to-Noise Ratio 50 dB
Antenna Loop antenna

Miscellaneous

Power Requirements. AC 110 V/AC 120 V to 127 V/
AC 220 V/AC 230 V to 240 V, 50 Hz/60 Hz
Power Consumption 460 W
In standby 0.65 W
Dimensions 420 (W) mm x 187 (H) mm x 462 (D) mm
Weight (without package). 16.4 kg (AX4ASi)
16.3 kg (AX2AS)

Furnished Parts

Setup microphone (for Auto MCACC setup) 1
AA/R6P dry cell batteries
VSX-AX4ASi 4
VSX-AX2AS. 2
Remote control unit. 1
Sub room remote control unit (*VSX-AX4ASi only*) 1
AM loop antenna 1
FM wire antenna 1
iPod cable. 1
Power cords 2
Antenna adapter 1
Flat-bladed converter plug 1
These operating instructions

Note

- Specifications and the design are subject to possible modifications without notice, due to improvements.

Cleaning the unit

- Use a polishing cloth or dry cloth to wipe off dust and dirt.
- When the surface is dirty, wipe with a soft cloth dipped in some neutral cleanser diluted five or six times with water, and wrung out well, and then wipe again with a dry cloth. Do not use furniture wax or cleansers.
- Never use thinners, benzine, insecticide sprays or other chemicals on or near this unit, since these will corrode the surface.

Our philosophy

Pioneer is dedicated to making your home theater listening experience as close as possible to the vision of the moviemakers and mastering engineer when they created the original soundtrack. We do this by focusing on three important steps:

1 Achieving the highest possible sound quality

2 Allowing for customized acoustic calibration according to any listening area

3 Fine-tuning the receiver with the help of world-class studio engineers[1]

Features

- **Easy setup using Advanced MCACC**

The Auto MCACC Setup provides a quick but accurate surround sound setup, which includes the advanced features of Professional Acoustic Calibration EQ. This innovative technology measures the reverb characteristics of your listening area, allowing you to customize your system calibration with the help of a graphical output that can be displayed on-screen, or using a computer. With the additional benefits of numerous MCACC preset memories, standing wave control and microphone measurements from a series of reference points, your home theater experience can be truly customized for optimal surround sound.

- **Phase correction**

The Phase Control technology incorporated into this receiver's design provides coherent sound reproduction through the use of phase matching for an optimal sound image at your listening position.

- **i.LINK digital interface** *(VSX-AX4ASi only)*

The i.LINK interface makes it possible to connect this receiver to i.LINK-equipped components, allowing you to enjoy high sampling rate (up to 192 kHz) PCM multichannel digital audio from DVD-Audio and SACD discs, as well as digital audio from DVD-Video, CD and Video CD discs, all with a single cable.

- **HDMI and digital video conversion**

This receiver is compatible with the HDMI digital video format, providing you high-definition digital video and digital audio via a single cable. Also, using this receiver's built-in digital video converter, de-interlacing and up-scaling are both possible, and analog video signals can be output through the HDMI terminal as digital video.

- **DCDi**

Faroudja's DCDi Processing is selectable and ensures that images are smooth and natural, without staircasing or jaggies.

- **iPod Ready**

With the new iPod terminal, you'll be up and running in no time, now that this receiver's enhanced compatibility makes on-screen control of your iPod an added possibility.

[1] *With the cooperation of AIR Studios, this receiver has been designated AIR Studios Monitor Reference:*



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TEL: (03)9586 6300
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Forest, New South Wales, 2086
TEL: (02)9452 0200

NEW ZEALAND
MONACO CORP. LTD.
10 Rothwell Ave., Albany. Auckland
P.O. Box 4399, Auckland 1
TEL: 94157444

MEXICO
PIONEER ELECTRONICS DE MEXICO, S.A.DE C.V.
Blvd. Manuel Avila Camacho138 piso 10
Colonia Lomas de Chapultepec, Mexico,
D.F. 11000
TEL: 52-55-9178-4270

REP. OF PANAMA
PIONEER INTERNATIONAL LATIN AMERICA, S.A.
P.O. Box 5140, Panama 5, Republic of Panama
TEL: 507-210-1466

When using the Advanced MCACC setup, you have the option of displaying the results using a computer. To obtain the software for this feature (as referred to in Connecting a PC for Advanced MCACC output on page 62), please contact the Pioneer Authorized Distributor for your area as listed above.

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